

Hafa Adai!

Sablan elected chairman of the Saipan delegation. » **PAGE 2**

PH consular mission wraps up 5-day outreach. » **PAGE 7**

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75¢

Macau casino builder to lead BSI project

» **Pryor helped build Singapore's Marina Bay Sands**

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Pryor

Best Sunshine International Ltd. made a hiring coup of sorts after announcing yesterday that Matthew Pryor of Tenman Project Management Holdings Limited has joined the \$7.1-billion Saipan integrated casino developer as its in-house development and construction team.

See BSI on **Page 4**

Li's daughter offers \$50K reward

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The eldest daughter of missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li is offering a \$50,000 cash reward to anyone who has information that will lead to her father's whereabouts.

The 23-year-old daughter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she will give the cash reward to the tip-

ster who can lead police to her father's location—whether he's still alive or already dead.

"I want to put that information about \$50,000 cash reward every day in your newspaper," said the daughter, who asked not to be identified by name.

She said the person with information should call the police and not her or the store.

The daughter believes her father is still alive but she refused to elaborate.

A businesswoman earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that she was willing to put up a \$10,000 cash reward for information. Li's girlfriend told *Saipan Tribune* last week that she was willing to offer \$20,000 cash reward.

See REWARD on **Page 4**



Benavente is Chambers' 2015 Business Person of the Year

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Vicky Benavente was named the 2015 Business Person of the Year at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Installation Dinner at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Saturday night.

Benavente was cited by the Chamber for her extensive work in the tourism industry and her involvement with a number of outreach and volunteer programs benefiting the local community.

Benavente, who playfully took a "selfie" before her acceptance speech, emphasized the importance of tourism in the Commonwealth, saying that tourism continues to be "everybody's business and not just the chamber's."

In her speech, Benavente also welcomed new businesses and new investors coming into Saipan, most of which are focused on tourism-related projects. Benavente vowed to continue helping the growth of local tourism, which continues to be Saipan's No. 1 industry.

Tourism is widely seen as one of the major

See BENAVENTE on **Page 4**

MARK RABAGO

Vicky Benavente delivers her remarks after being named the 2015 Business Person of the Year by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the association's Installation Dinner on Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

See more photos on **PAGE 13**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja leads series of courtesy calls.

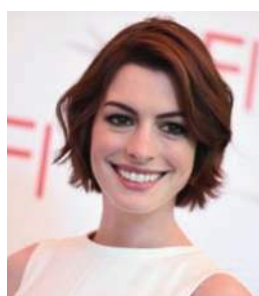
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BUSINESS

For the first time since 2009, most Americans are paying less than \$2 a gallon.

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LIFE & STYLE

Anne Hathaway says she was not supposed to star in "Song One."

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

MTEC speaker highlights 'software' of tourist experience



DENNIS B. CHAN

Fred Schumann, associate professor at the University of Guam, shared opportunities students could have in the "experience economy" of their island tourism, reminding them that a "brand is a promise." Schumann was the guest speaker at last Friday's MTEC summit.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Hundreds of students were told about the importance of good "software," or people, in helping brand a tourism destination during the second day of the Marianas Tourism Education Council summit last Friday.

Fred R. Schumann, Ph.D., associate professor of the Global Resources Management at the University of Guam, was the guest speaker that day.

His shared the importance of "starting at a young age to learn about how tourism affects everyone."

"We are in the business of creating happiness," he told students, explaining the importance of celebrating a destination's uniqueness with "branding" and the direct and indirect ways people can enhance the "experience economy" of the islands.

Tourism is for young kids and

older adults, he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. "Whatever decisions are made in tourism, these are going to last for more than one generation, so everyone is needed to be involved."

He shared with students a story of his trek along the length of Japan—from its southern tip to northern—when he was much younger and before he joined the tourism industry.

"One of the things that I learned was the 'software' part [of tourism.] It's the people that really make your trip memorable. I met some really nice people on the way," he said.

"When I was running the length of the Japan... I looked like a bum. I was wearing shorts and I had a backpack and people gave me dirty looks. What are you doing on the road? One day [television network] NHK interviewed me. The next day, I was wearing the same things and doing the same things and all of a

sudden people were smiling and waving."

He realized then that "everyone has a story."

Travel makes you learn about yourself and people, he said.

"I've been to places where they have fancy architecture and great history but the software wasn't there. And I've been to places where there is nothing, but the people make the place an excellent place to visit."

He also emphasized branding to the students, saying that "nobody can copy your culture and history."

In 2008, Guam began to promote their local culture, he said. According to him, that same year is when search hits for Guam started trending more.

"I found out the key words related to Chamorro culture were 'food' and 'Chamorro village' and 'Chamorro restaurant.'... Now there's a real strong interest in eating Chamorro food.

I'm involved in a project called 'One Village, One Product' so that people in the village can make something and sell, so people can be directly involved in the tourism industry," he said.

Ideally, a Chamorro restaurant would say that they are using "salt from Inarajan," for example.

None of the hotels in Guam

have Chamorro restaurants, he said, so these are "great opportunities" for Guam as well as Saipan to share culture and enhance tourism.

Schumann has been active as a business executive in the Asia-Pacific region for over 30 years, working with various multinational retail and hospitality firms. His primary research has

been in the field of international tourism and trends in consumer spending. He has extensive experience in luxury and specialty retail, with groups such as DFS Guam and The Athlete's Foot Group, Inc. At TAF, he was responsible for 196 retail stores in 17 countries/territories as franchise director for the Asia-Pacific region.

'Focus on magnitude of Saipan developments'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As expected, Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) was elected chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Friday, with 12 representative and senators of the 3rd Senatorial District voting him to the position.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support and confidence in voting for me. ...I pledge and rest assured that I will work tirelessly and with due diligence with you all... in addressing all the pressing issues that face Saipan and the Northern Islands," he said while addressing his colleagues at the House chamber.

Sablan also called on the delegation to work together to address the issues that would surface with the number of developments on Saipan, among them the \$7.1-billion Saipan casino resort of Best Sunshine International Ltd. and the \$130-million hotel project of Honest Profit International Ltd. in San Antonio.

"We all know that there are big developments forthcoming here. ...I would like all members to focus on the magnitude of these developments and what we need to address all these developments," he said.

He asked all delegation members—old and new—to find common ground in serving the people not only of Saipan but all of the CNMI as well.

"To my returning colleagues we have proven that we could work together in the 18th Legislature and I ask and solicit your help and due diligence to help me and work with me. To our freshmen colleagues, I will call on you as well. Please know that my office is always open to you, to work with you."

Voting for Sablan for the SNILD's top post were House Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero and Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoro, Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) as well as Sens. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and Justo Quitugua.

Also elected Friday was Igisomar as SNILD vice chair and Angel Demapan as floor leader.

After a request from Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), the *de facto* leader of the minority, John Paul Sablan also made public the chairmen and vice chairmen of the SNILD standing committees.

Ways and Means would be

chaired by Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) with Ogumoro as vice chair. Judicial and Governmental Operations will be led by K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) with Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) as vice chair.

Natural Resources would be chaired by Rafael Demapan with Igisomar as vice chair, while Taimanao would head Public Utilities Transportation and Communications with Antonio Sablan as vice chair.

Federal and Foreign Affairs would be chaired by Palacios, with Angel Demapan as vice chair. Ogumoro will head Education with Taimanao as vice chair.

Tourism will have Lee Pan Guerrero and Camacho as chair and vice chair, respectively, with the two switching chair and vice chair positions in Commerce. Health and Welfare would be chaired by Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero with Antonio Sablan as his lieutenant.

"Stand and reach out to all members to be part of all the committees," John Paul Sablan advised the delegation after the assignments of chairmanships.

Tebuteb, however, felt that the composition of the committees' chairs and vice chairs can't help but divide the aisle of the SNILD since none of the minority members were given posts.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Tinian Turquoise Blue

The 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon will be held on Feb. 14, 2015, and will feature a 1.5 km swim, 40 km

bike, and 10 km run. The reef swim will offer three courses: 1.5 km, 3.0 km, and 4.5 km. There is no time limit for the race, offering all competitors the opportunity to enjoy the satisfaction of completing the event. The 11th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will also be held on Feb. 14-15.

The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is co-sponsored by the MVA, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Registration costs are: \$80 for solo triathletes, \$60/member for triathlon teams of two or three members, and \$60 for reef swim only (all distances). Registration fee includes the awards party on event day, a commemorative t-shirt, and swim cap. Registration will be held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino poolside on Feb. 13 from 6-7 p.m., with



Photo credit: Hideo Miyazawa

For more information or to register, contact Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1.670.433.9365 or Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3210.



the mandatory pre-race briefing from 6:30-7 p.m. at the same venue. Cash payment only. Registration forms and course maps are downloadable under the event date at the Calendar of Events at www.mymarianas.com.

The awards banquet will be held on January 14, 2014, at 6 p.m. at Kammer Beach.

Bench warrant out for woman who lied to USCIS

A woman who is facing a charge in federal court for lying

Man allegedly kicks wife's face

A 25-year-old man allegedly pushed his wife and kicked her face when she fell on the floor during their struggle for possession of a tablet that reportedly contains evidence of his illicit relationship. The alleged incident happened at their home in Garapan on Jan. 17.

Danilo Guzarem, 25, was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing last week, Guzarem's cash bail was lowered from \$5,000 to \$1,250.

Police detective Daniel T. Joab stated in his report that the wife had gone to the Palms Garden Apartment in Chinatown last Jan. 17 at about 12:30am to meet with Guzarem and get

to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services not only failed

their son's tablet from him.

Joab said the wife suspected her husband of having an affair and wanted to check the tablet. He refused to give it to her and pushed her. When she fell on the floor, Guzarem allegedly kicked her face, then ran to the third floor of the apartment.

The wife said Guzarem went to the third floor to delete items from the tablet or reformat it. He then gave the tablet to her and left.

Guzarem is an information technology network specialist.

The wife told police it was not the first time her husband treated her that way. She said she almost blacked out when he stomped on her face. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

to appear at several scheduled random drug tests but also at her hearing in federal court.

The case against Evangelyn E.C. Jones was called last week for a petition for revocation of her pre-trial release, but she did not appear.

Attorney David Banes, Jones' new appointed counsel, told U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that since his appointment last Jan. 9, he has made many attempts to contact his client without success.

U.S. Probation officer Gregory Arriola also told Banes and Manglona that Jones has not contacted the U.S. Probation Office since their last home visit on Dec. 23, 2014.

This prompted Manglona to issue a bench warrant for Jones' arrest and vacated the trial set for Feb. 2, 2015.

Manglona deferred setting a new trial date and deadlines until Jones appears in court.

Attorney Michael N. Evangelista, who was the original court-appointed counsel for Jones, had asked the court to be allowed to withdraw as attorney for Jones. The court granted the request.

Arriola stated in his declaration in court that Jones was arrested on an indictment charging her with one count of visa fraud and was released last Nov. 24 on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

During her release, Jones admitted to using "ice" on Nov. 21 and 28, 2014, Arriola said. Jones then requested that her pre-trial release conditions be modified to include substance abuse treatment.

Manglona granted Jones' request last Dec. 15.

Arriola said since Jones'

release on Nov. 24, she failed to appear for random drug tests on Dec. 16, 18, 20, 28, and 30, 2014.

Arriola said that, on Dec. 16 and 18, Jones informed the treatment vendor that she was unable to report to their office because she was sick.

On Jan. 5, Jones again failed to appear for a random drug test

earlier that day, Arriola said.

According to the indictment, Jones stated in a Form I-130 that an individual known as K.Y.O. was her "husband/wife"—a representation she knew was false in that she had divorced K.Y.O. in 2006.

Form I-130 refers to a U.S. citizen's petition for an alien relative. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Muña: Revive healthcare impact tax bill

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

With the prevalence of diabetes on the islands, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna believes a past bill that proposed to impose a healthcare impact tax should be revived to discourage the purchase of unhealthy foods.

According to CHCC's data for 2013 alone, the prevalence rate of diabetes has risen to 81.83 per 1,000 persons alone. Although CHCC has made additional investments by recruiting more internal medicine physicians and reopening its satellite clinics, Muña believes reviving House Bill 18-34 may help stem people's penchant for buying unhealthy foods.

HB 18-34 sought to impose a 150 percent ad valorem tax on tobacco; 70 percent ad valorem tax on alcohol; and 70 percent tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. Aside from the potential revenue, it was introduced to control people's behavior.

"HB 18-34 received many criticisms because of the assumed economic effect on individuals and businesses. The struggle that CHCC has in addressing health care in the CNMI is a result of the small investment the CNMI makes in health care," Muña said.

"HB 18-34 will not by any means pay for CHCC's entire operational cost but it will certainly discourage our people from purchasing unhealthy foods that is linked to these diseases and it will help CHCC assist our people in achieving optimal health. This bill, if passed into law, is an investment in improving the health of our people," she added.

HB 18-34 garnered widespread support and opposition when it was introduced in 2013.

Although CHCC's efforts to combat both non-communicable and communicable dis-

ease has been a struggle, Muña said that CHCC is committed to building a healthy CNMI and educating CNMI residents about the importance of health screenings and promoting prevention and wellness initiatives.

Muna cited the various outreach activities they did in 2014, additional funding to purchase vaccines, prevention programs for mental health, and an NCD Alliance between various stakeholders to address many of the NCDs in the community.

"Our indigent program, an uncompensated program, even provides access to care to those that cannot afford to pay. While these efforts help, we need additional support to continue to provide such assistance and we also need others to open access to essential drugs. Access to essential drugs that are known to effectively prevent heart disease and stroke is difficult and it leads to patients being readmitted to the hospital or leads to death," Muña said.

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SHEFA will stick with what it will have after April 2015

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board will stick with the cap of some 900 poker machine fees once licensing for new poker machines discontinues after April this year.

SHEFA board vice chair Jose Mafnas said whatever

number of poker machines remains after April 2015, that will be the number that SHEFA will stick with.

According to SHEFA board member Juan Tenorio, there are some 900 poker machines left on Saipan and whatever revenue is raised from that, SHEFA will have to be content with that for now.

"The machines will remain

and we're not sure if new poker machines are going to come up before April, but we will stick with whatever we can," Tenorio said.

The casino law, Public Law 18-56, Section 2302(d), states that "after April 2, 2015, no new or additional licenses for poker, pachinko or similar amusement machines, but not including electronic gaming

machines as defined in 6 CMC 3154(a)(4), shall be granted or allowed to operate outside of the approved casino establishment, hotel, or La Fiesta within the Third Senatorial District."

However, all licenses issued for poker, pachinko, and similar amusement machines that began operation prior to April 2, 2015, shall be allowed to continue to operate.

That means SHEFA will have to rely solely on the revenue brought in by existing poker machines. And with poker arcades slowly being phased out from villages, there is a possibility that SHEFA will run out of funds in the next couple of years.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who attended SHEFA's latest board meeting, expressed concern about SHEFA's funding.

"We will try and discuss later on how SHEFA might need to obtain funding in the future," Apatang said at the

meeting.

Lawmakers appropriate some \$3 million in poker license fees to SHEFA every year.

SHEFA provides financial assistance to some 800 or more students both on and off-island.

Last December 2014, the Saipan and Northern Island Delegation appropriated more than \$3 million for SHEFA.

According to SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa, the \$3 million will be used for awards and scholarships and \$100,000 will cover SHEFA operations.

BENAVENTE

From Page 1

catalysts for the island's economic recovery.

The other nominees for the Chamber recognition were Maureen Maratita, Glimpses Publications publisher; Michael S. Sablan, vice president of Finance and Administration at Triple J Saipan; Charles Cepeda, Pacific Trading general manager; James Nelson, Docomo Pacific general manager;

and Ron Smith, Angil Design, Inc. owner.

Nominees are nominated by Chamber members and judged by past Chamber Business Person of the Year winners.

Benavente, the wife of former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, is truly a veteran of the CNMI's tourism sector, having worked more than 30 years in the local tourism and hospitality industry. She was the former managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, which serves as the government's na-

tional tourism office.

Benavente also held a number of corporate posts. She served as spa manager for Hyatt Regency Saipan and as an instructor for certification courses from the American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute for high school students.

She also volunteers her time for the Marianas Tourism Education Council as its chairwoman, to help educate the community about the importance of the tourism and hospitality industries. MTEC's main purpose is

to provide information to the island's youth about the opportunities and benefits of working in the tourism industry.

Aside from her volunteer work, Benavente also served on the board of the "Make a Wish Foundation."

She is currently a member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and is active on works of the chamber's education committee.

Benavente is currently the executive assistant manager of Pacific Island Club.

Free training on effective parenting

Brilliant Star School will be offering a "Parent Effectiveness Training" at no charge to anyone in the community interested in attending.

The training will be held on Feb. 4 from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Brilliant Star School located on Navy Hill.

The talk is appropriate for parents of all age children and will introduce the following skills:

- How to talk to your children so that they will listen to you.

- How to listen to your children so they feel genuinely understood.

- How to resolve conflicts and problems in your family so that no one loses and problems

stay solved.

- How to know which skills to use when.

The presenter, Ganasini Iris, holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from State University of New York and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oregon. For the past 19 years, she has been teaching independent study for home-school kids grades K-8 and a parenting class titled "Creating Sacred Relationships with your Children."

For more information about this free training, contact Brilliant Star School at (670) 323-STAR (7827). (PR)



MARK RABAGO

Vicky Benavente playfully takes a "selfie" shortly after being named the 2015 Business Person of the Year at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Installation Dinner at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Saturday night.

REWARD

From Page 1

The daughter said her mother, who arrived from China last week, and Li's girlfriend are in good terms and that her father's girlfriend has been raising her and her 13-year-old sister.

Li's wife and 65-year-old father arrived on Saipan last Thursday from China.

A family member said Li is already separated from the wife.

The girlfriend and Li's 23-year-old daughter are now operating the store.

Li, 43, has two brothers on Saipan.

Family members and members of the Chinese community continued their search for Li over the weekend.

Li was reportedly last seen on Jan. 17 at 11am, seeing a friend at a tire shop in Puerto Rico. His family reported his disappearance to police that day at 7:56pm.

BSI

From Page 1

BSI CEO Mark A. Brown introduced Pryor to local media yesterday at the company's new office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

"I'll be overseeing the architectural and design process. I will be managing the whole development process from start to finish. From concept design through the whole construction phase and once its built [I] will hand it over to operations," said Pryor.

According to his company's website, Pryor established TPM after eight years with Las Vegas Sands Corp., where his roles ranged from director of Construction (Macau) to senior vice president, Construction (Asia).

At Sands, Pryor was responsible for all construction and development activity in

Asia. Under his direction were Marina Bay Sands, Singapore (9.4m sq. ft., \$5.4 billion); The Venetian Macao (10.6m sq. ft., \$2.4 billion); Sands Cotai Central (13.2m sq. ft., \$4.2 billion); Four Seasons Macao (3.2m sqft, US\$1.08 billion); and Sands Macao (1.5m sq. ft., \$364 million).

Pryor, who is one of 10 new company hires in Hong Kong and Saipan, said he is very familiar with Brown after closely working with him for a number of years in Macau.

"Mark was running the operations and I was running the development side. So we worked hand in hand for about five years...I'm basically working with [BSI] to make their vision into a reality so I can help them through the whole development process. Work with the local teams, work with local resources, and obviously we will be looking to work with other international groups on the design

side. We're looking to pull that together and help them execute the development side."

Brown said hiring Pryor and his team is a coup for BSI and its parent company, Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.

"He's superstar! This is a very, very big hire for us. Aside from being a friend, just look at his track record. Look what he built. I've been trying for a month and a half to get Matthew to join the company and get him here. He's almost 90 percent one-stop shopping. Every single thing you think of in building the building, he's a huge part of it and he built every single property that I worked for in Macau and then some," he said.

When asked what his initial impressions of Saipan are, Pryor didn't hesitate and said that BSI could possibly have found a diamond in the rough.

"Fantastic! What a stunning

island. It's absolutely gorgeous. You've got great natural assets, great natural infrastructure. Everything. Landscaping. Beautiful. It's really, really nice. I mean all the basics are there to make great resorts and great projects here."

Pryor admits, though, that building a multi-billion dollar resort in the middle of the Pacific Ocean poses some challenges.

"You're in the middle of the Pacific. Obviously you'll have infrastructure challenges. We're going to be looking at that. We'll be working with the utilities company and the local infrastructure to support these developments. You don't have lots of manufacturing and construction so I'm almost sure we would be importing almost everything. We'll look at what we can do here and what we can source locally," he said.

The lack of a local workforce could also be a problem,

Pryor said, but added that his and the company's philosophy have always been to hire locally first.

"If we can find people to help us, if there're construction workers out there, we'll hire them. That's the arrangement we had in Macau, Singapore, and the Philippines. We have to prove to the government that they're not there before they approve us to get people in," he said.

In terms of timeline, Pryor said in the next 2-3 months BSI probably would be announcing site specifics on where the company will be building its first project and what that project will entail.

"Hopefully sooner than that," said a more optimistic Brown, who added that the \$100 million Imperial Pacific has so far raised in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange would be able to build half of the first phase.

Brown also confirmed that

it has bought the property formerly owned by DFS Saipan in Garapan and that it is currently in talks with the Department of Public Lands to acquire public land facing the beach so it can combine both parcels for its development.

"Considering other parts around the island. The main issue basically is we want to build near the beach. Fiesta [Resort & Spa Saipan] and Hyatt [Regency Saipan] have beautiful beaches in front and have outdoor activities and that's what we want also," said Brown.

Pryor reiterated his admiration for Saipan and said that BSI's development could be a game-changer.

"You have a beautiful island here. You have natural assets that you can't... no matter what you do in Macau or Singapore you can't create this and it's just a fantastic starting point. You can't create this," he said.

NI mayor to push for homesteads on Pagan

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan's top priority is to push for the creation of Pagan homesteads that he said the Department of Public Lands has stalled for years.

"I am ready to do it and I'm not saying I'm going to 'try' to do it but make sure that it does come into fruition because we can't just sit back and wait for a miracle to happen. People have to open up their mind because it is not just for the residents of the Northern Islands but it is for the Northern Marianas descent that is willing to take up the journey

in staying up in Pagan," Aldan said Thursday at his office on Capital Hill.

"[The] CNMI has a high unemployment rate so a lot of the people can go up there and establish themselves. We can rebuild the community that was once thriving back in the days and the homestead is a must. You can't just put them there and let them live on public lands because you've got to make them feel that the land belongs to them—a form of belonging and give it to them in writing and paper so that they have every right to claim the lands they are living on," Aldan said.

He said the issue with DPL

and the Pagan homesteads date back to the time of former NI mayor Valentino Taisacan.

Up to this day, not one single NI resident has received a certificate of ownership from DPL, Aldan said.

He said his father, Tobias Aldan, had also tried to push the issue with DPL's former secretaries.

"If DPL continues to stall things as they did in the past, then I will have to go up to the Legislature and ask for a hearing," Aldan said.

DPL's main issue with Pagan is the lack of infrastructure but Aldan believes that that "shouldn't be DPL's problem."

"The problem is how to give the homesteads and impose the provisions of the permits and inspect them periodically...that is their role. I don't know what is wrong with that," Aldan said.

He pointed out there is already an area on Pagan that's been identified for the homestead and an agricultural area on the east side of the island.

» Aldan: If DPL stalls, I will seek assistance from lawmakers, governor

"These are the things that had been surveyed for its perimeter and there are lot numbers assigned so we can't just sit back and watch it happen, we have to make it happen. I'm not afraid to fail and I am going to do it with or without DPL," Aldan.

"I am just respecting that DPL is mandated to dispose of public lands and that is why I respect that, but if they will continue to stall the program that we are trying to accomplish I will find another way to get it through," Aldan said.

He said he had worked for DPL for 14 years and knows how the subdivisions are done. One example he pointed out

was Kagman I.

"It was issued out without power and without water and people had to use their necessities to provide for themselves. We already did this before so what is the point of delaying things? We're not asking them to build roads or bring water. The people of NI have stayed there for a long time," Aldan said.

He pointed out that majority of the people who once lived on Pagan are now old and have filed claims for the lands that they have owned for centuries in the NI.

"They filed claims as family lands and up 'til this day nothing has been done to afford these people what they deserve," he said.

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‘Swift Air execs filed bankruptcy after failing to get \$1.5M from Saipan Air’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Swift Air executives’ involvement in other airlines that later filed for bankruptcy shows a pattern of their fraudulent scheme, according to Saipan Air Inc. counsel Steven Pixley.

Pixley said Swift Air executives Jeffry Conry’s and Boris Van Lier’s fraudulent scheme included the acquisition of Swift Air without any consideration and a plan to ultimately file for bankruptcy after obtaining as much money from

Saipan Air as they could obtain.

Pixley disclosed the Swift Air executives’ alleged fraudulent scheme in Saipan Air’s opposition to Conry’s and Van Lier’s omnibus motion in limine.

In their motion, Conry and Van Lier, through counsel, want to exclude eight classes of evidence, primarily on grounds of relevancy and unfair prejudice.

In Saipan Air’s opposition, Pixley pointed out that just before Swift Air filed for bankruptcy on June 27, 2012, the defendants tried to obtain an

additional \$1.5 million from Saipan Air. When Saipan Air refused to give them more money, they immediately filed bankruptcy, Pixley said.

Saipan Air also alleged in its first amended complaint that Conry was involved in various airline ventures resulting in bankruptcy filings.

“It is submitted that the evidence of Conry’s prior pattern of bankruptcy filings is relevant to support Saipan Air’s claims because it shows a pattern of conduct,” Pixley pointed out.

The lawyer said Conry’s involvement with Direct Air is especially relevant to show a fraudulent scheme and pattern of fraudulent conduct.

Pixley said the first amended complaint alleges that Direct Air filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on April 12, 2012—a date directly relevant to this litigation.

Direct Air initially filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on March 15, 2012.

Pixley said once Direct Air filed for bankruptcy, the defendants initiated contact with Saipan Air pushing for the ACMI Agreement (aircraft, crew, maintenance, and insurance).

Pixley said the defendants needed additional funding because they could no longer use the Direct Air “cash machine.”

The lawyer added that Saipan Air alleges that on Dec. 12, 2011, Conry lied to Saipan Air that Avondale Ventures, the new

owners of Swift Air, has \$70 million in assets.

He said the same lie was repeated to Saipan Air’s chief operating officer Adam Ferguson during his trip to Phoenix, Arizona on March 21, 2012.

“Saipan Air intends to introduce evidence showing a pattern of fraudulent conduct in that these very same misrepresentation were made to the owners of Direct Air during the acquisition of Direct Air in September 2011,” Pixley said.

Pixley said iConry admitted n his deposition that he knew that when Avondale Company-Avondale Aviation acquired Direct Air, there was representations made to Direct Air owners that Avondale had \$70 million in assets.

Pixley said while Conry discounts his involvement with Direct Air, Swift Air’s then chief restructuring officer Donald Stukes testified at his deposition that Conry was an owner of Direct Air and was actively involved in its operations.

Pixley said Stukes testified at his deposition that Conry told him that Direct Air was a “cash machine” and that he “led the charge” in meeting with the owners prior to acquisition of that entity.

The lawyer noted that Conry obtained an ownership interest in Direct Air under circumstances very similar to the Swift Air acquisition.

Pixley said Saipan Air has alleged in its first amended com-

plaint that a salient component of the “fraudulent scheme... of obtaining money and other property from Saipan Air” included the payment of money to Van Lier.

Van Lier allegedly received payments of approximately \$800,000 from Swift Air between March 30, 2012 and June 26, 2012.

Pixley said the defendants’ argument that Saipan Air has not shown that these payments were fraudulent seems to put the cart before the horse—while Saipan Air concedes that it has the burden of proving the elements of fraud, this burden begins when the jury trial commences on Feb. 2, 2015.

Pixley said Saipan Air will demonstrate at trial that Van

Lier was reimbursed for personal expenses by Swift Air.

In its lawsuit, Saipan Air is seeking \$2,541,370.78 in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages.

Conry and Van Lier are currently employed by Arizona-based Swift Air, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2013.

Saipan Air filed the racketeering lawsuit against Conry, Van Lier, and Stukes in July 2012.

Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection in Arizona shortly after notifying Saipan Air that it would not deliver two 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft for Saipan Air’s program.

The Feb. 2 trial will be against the Conry and Van Lier relating to the fraud claims.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMDC membership meeting set

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit, will hold a general membership meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 Community Action Plan; membership recruitment; election of officers & standing committees; and updating the NMD *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. **(PR)**

Free OSHA workshop

Rick C. Foster of the Compliance Office, Honolulu Area Office, will present a free workshop on severe injuries and new record-keeping reporting requirements effective Jan. 1, 2015, for workplaces under federal OSHA; the importance of having a safety and health plan in place; and federal OSHA jurisdiction in the Pacific.

The workshop will be held at WIA Building No. 1215, Capitol Hill (maximum of 20 per session) on the following dates:

- Jan. 26, 2015, 9 am to 12pm
- Jan. 27, 2015, 9 am to 12pm
- Jan. 28, 2015, 9 am to 12pm

For reservations call 664-3156 and ask for Elaine or email elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com, or call 664-1704/05/08/57 and ask for Katrina or email katrina.diaz@gmail.com. **(PR)**

CUC preparing some rate cases for CPUC

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plans to bring up several rate cases with the Commonwealth Utilities Public Commission once the CPUC hires a new consultant.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said among the items that CUC wants to present to the commission is a petition to be allowed to adjust the leveled energy adjustment clause or LEAC every month, the LEAC reconciliation in February, retaining the infrastructure surcharge, and increasing the water and wastewater rate cases.


CUC is already allowed to adjust its LEAC rate each month but CUC wants to make this adjustment on its own with-

out having to go back to CPUC after adjusting the rate.


Another is the LEAC reconciliation or true-up to adjust any over- or under-collection of fuel costs from prior LEAC periods. The CUC board earlier proposed that over-collections be distributed back to the public as billing credits.

For the infrastructure surcharge, CUC is thinking of retaining it in order to sustain their level of improvements in their distribution system.

Fletcher said that due to almost four years of no rate increases, the water and wastewater rate case will also be brought up to CPUC. **(Jayson Camacho)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-009

A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project*”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.**

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.**

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Philippine consular mission wraps up 5-day outreach

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam facilitated documents for hundreds of Filipinos last week during their five-day consular outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe from Jan. 20 to 24.

Hundreds packed the center even before lunch time their first day, according to United Filipino Organization officials, who helped run the services.

The consulate general processed 537 passports, provided notarial services for 83 individuals, extended 12 passports, documented 17 reports of birth, six reports of marriage, and facilitated 58 employment contracts, among other things, as of 4pm last Saturday. The services ended at 5pm.

Their next mobile service is slated this March. The consulate general plans to double their mobile consular services this year to six, holding one every other month.

Last year they processed around 1,400 passports. They project to process at least 3,100 passports—more than double—from last year.

Consul Mark Francis Hamoy said the services were “smoother” this time as people have gotten more familiar with “how the system works.”

“We pre-encode their date be-



United Filipino Organizations officials and members volunteered their help during the Philippine Consulate General in Guam's mobile consular services last week at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

fore we came here. In the past, we used to do it on a walk-in basis. For example, if we used to do 56 passports per day, now we are doing 120 a day,” he said.

He hopes this will help alleviate the absence of a consulate on island, but added that fellow nationals should be “just as diligent in remembering when to renew their passports.”

“They have to make sure to register to process their renewals 12-18 months before the expiration dates of their passports,” he said.

He said according to the USCIS in Guam, one's passport should be “valid for allowed stay” whenever one processes any document.

Hamoy described as “still speculative” any talks of reopening a consulate general on Saipan as a new Philippine administration is set to come in next year.

“It's better to wait how the new administration decides. Once it becomes clear there is no decision to reopen [an office on] Saipan, then we'll explore other options including possibly

Judge orders Hocog to appear at contempt hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Michael J. Bordallo has ordered Senate President Victor B. Hocog to appear in court next month for a hearing on a motion filed by a Rota corporation that seeks to hold him in contempt for allegedly disobeying a court order that dates back to 1999.

According to court records, Rota Merchandising Corp. filed at least four motions to show cause against Hocog, while Superior Court issued three orders to show cause against the senator.

When asked for comment last week, Hocog said things are already being ironed out with the

other party's counsel, Michael White, as of Tuesday.

On why the case has been dragging on in court since 1999, the Senate president said, “There's some misunderstanding on that...so we already [took] care of that.”

The order to show cause hearing was supposed to commence last Friday, Jan. 16, but Hocog and his counsel did not appear in court.

White appeared as counsel for Rota Merchandising Corp.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Senate president was off-island at that time and communicated with White regarding the hearing that day.

This prompted Bordallo, who conducted the telephonic hearing from Guam, to reset the

order to show cause hearing to Feb. 18, 2015, at 10am.

In September 2014, CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona appointed Bordallo to preside over the Rota Merchandising Corp. lawsuit against Hocog after all Superior Court judges recused from the matter.

According to the original lawsuit, Rota Merchandising Corp. sued Hocog and V's Corp. in September 1999 for allegedly refusing to pay \$125,043.86 worth of construction materials.

Fifteen years later, on May 31, 2014, White filed a motion to show cause, saying Hocog still owes \$32,064 plus interest as of Jan. 15, 2014, and that the senator made the last payment on May 16, 2011.

Torres to address SHRM's first 2015 meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its special guest speaker at the group's first general membership meeting of 2015, this Thursday, Jan. 29. Torres will address issues related to what the human resource community can expect in the upcoming year relative to jobs, immigration issues, the workforce, workforce training opportunities, the looming manpower shortage with the anticipated casino and other development, and

other employment and human resource related topics. Torres will also answer questions from the audience.

The program will include the installation ceremony for the 2015 board of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management.

This special meeting will be held this Thursday at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club, from 11:30am to 1:30pm and will include lunch at a cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved

by contacting Micah Parico-Acuvera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

SHRM Chapter members, other HR professionals, managers, and the public are invited to come and enjoy this special presentation by the Commonwealth's new lieutenant governor.

For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. (SHRM)

that scenario where we set up a satellite office [here],” he said.

Right now, the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. is working with the U.S. State Department to clear an “honorary consul” for the CNMI, according to Hamoy.

While this honorary consul, Eli Arago, may not be able to process passports, this will give the consulate general “a recognized representative on the ground,” he said.

This, he said, will help their office look at the idea of how they can provide trained consular staff on a more regular basis.

Hamoy would like to remind fellow nationals to always keep their papers in order, as the basis of their stay on island is their passport.

“That should be your priority,” he said.



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Bordallo backs delegate voting rights resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Del-
egate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-
GU) issued the following state-
ment Friday in support of House
Resolution 44, a resolution that
would amend the rules of the
House of Representatives for the
114th Congress to permit the del-
egates and the resident commis-
sioner to vote in the Committee of
the Whole House. The resolution
was introduced by Democratic
Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

The standing rules of the
House of Representatives,
which were adopted on Jan. 6,
2015, currently deny the del-
egates and resident commis-
sioner from casting votes during
proceedings of the Commit-
tee of the Whole. These rules
are similar to rules adopted for
the 112th and 113th Congresses
when Republicans held the ma-
jority in the House. Democrats
extended voting rights to the

delegates and resident commis-
sioner during proceedings of the
Committee of the Whole during
the 110th and 111th Congresses.
“The ability to cast a vote is
the most basic of rights in our
representative democracy,”
said Bordallo. “Votes cast by
members of Congress make us
accountable to our constituents
and allow them to understand
our positions on important is-
sues. It is unfortunate that the

rules adopted by the 114th Con-
gress once again deny voting
rights for members from the
territories and the District of
Columbia. These rules make the
House less transparent and less
responsive to the more than four

million Americans who live
in the territories and D.C., and
they do not recognize the many
contributions our constituents
have made to our nation. I thank
my good friend, Democratic
Whip Steny Hoyer, for again
introducing this resolution to
restore the voting rights for the
delegates and resident commis-

sioner during Committee of the
Whole proceedings. It will give
us parity with other members
of Congress and strengthen the
long-cherished values of the
Congress.”
For more information on the
resolution, visit Democratic
Whip Hoyer’s website at www.democraticwhip.gov. **(PR)**

GCA congratulates PGFC participants, winners

The administration, faculty and staff,
and parents of Grace Christian Academy
would like to extend their congratulations
to the following winners and everyone
who participated in the third and fourth
Primary Grades Forensic Conference
competitions held at Green Meadows
School on Dec. 6, 2014, and at Oleai
Elementary School on Jan. 17, 2015.
These competitions encourage public
and private school students to participate
in and become proficient in the forensic
and arts: reading, public speaking, and
interpretations.



Grace Christian Academy's December and January PGFC winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

DECEMBER 2014 WINNERS

- K-2 DIVISION**
- Dramatic Interpretation A**
Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place
- Humorous Interpretation A**
Tae Hee Kim, 4th Place
- Duo Interpretation A**
Rafael Ablog, 3rd Place
Aiden Gerard Camacho, 3rd Place
- Readers Forum Masters A**
William Matthew Cano, 2nd Place
- Readers Forum Masters B**
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place
- Readers Forum Masters C**
Yellena Sarang Kim, 3rd Place
- Impromptu Speaking A**
William Matthew Cano, 2nd Place
Yellena Sarang Kim, 4th Place
Briston James Jones, 5th Place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Aiden Gerard Camacho, 2nd Place
Maria Sofia Gomez, 3rd Place
Ella Hall, 4th Place
- 3-5 DIVISION**
- Impromptu Speaking A**
James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place

- Jacob Anthony DL Guerrero, 2nd Place
Kei Lizama, 3rd Place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Soleil Lamar, 1st Place
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 2nd Place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 3rd Place
- Readers Forum Masters A**
Kei Lizama, 2nd Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th Place
- Readers Forum Masters B**
Steven Adriatico, 1st Place
- Dramatic Interpretation A**
Steven Adriatico, 2nd Place
Ryan Daproza, 5th Place

JANUARY 2015 WINNERS

- K-2 DIVISION**
- Dramatic Interpretation A**
Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place
Marisa Wang, 5th Place
- Humorous Interpretation A**
Tae Hee Kim, 4th Place
Reyone Kent Aldan, 5th Place
- Readers Forum Masters A**
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 4th Place
- Readers Forum Masters C**
Yellena Sarang Kim, 4th Place

- Impromptu Speaking A**
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 3rd Place
Yellena Sarang Kim, 4th Place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Ayden Sean Yumul, 1st Place
Briston James Jones, 2nd Place
Ethan John Quichocho, 5th Place
- 3-5 DIVISION**
- Impromptu Speaking A**
James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place
Matthew Ernest, 4th Place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 1st Place
Tommy Aldan, 2nd Place
- Readers Forum Masters B**
Steven Adriatico, 1st Place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 3rd Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place
- Humorous Interpretation A**
Matthew Ernest, 4th Place
- Teacher/Coach**
K-5, Sheryl Prieto
First Grade, Leah Garfil
Second Grade, Miriam Dilse
Third Grade, Maria Gerecke
Fourth Grade, Melanie Hickerson
PGFC Coordinator, Esther Manzano

MCS President's List, Honor Roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates
the following students for making it
to the 2nd Quarter President's List
and Honor Roll. (Note that students
are listed in alphabetical order ac-
cording to their first names.)

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00
or above and must attain character
marks of VG or above.

- 1st GRADE**
Backe, Asa Vanessa
Buenafior, Oscar Bien R.
Dela Santa, Heleyna Friele C.
Estella, Valerie Anne R.
Hayes, Alana P.
Javier, Lance Jericho A.
Lansangan, Lexi Marie N.
Maratita, Elise Divine F.
Matsumoto, Ayanna Faith H.
Mendoza, Mikaehla Paige R.
Ogo, Therese Joy O.
Tenorio, Jessiana B
Tomokane, Peige Morgan N.
- 2nd GRADE**
Camacho, Irie Kane H.
Castro, Kenneth S.
Chang, Jada Marie B.
Kautz, Claire Regina G.
Lobo, Angelo T.
Mallari, Laizza Vianca A.
Mesa, Isaiyah George F.
Naputi, Eliayn Maria C.
Nicholas, Jalen Jeremiah B.
Palacios, Tricia J.
Pamintuan, Manuel Vidal
Perez, Gregorio Jr. M.
Reyes, Chelsy Anne L.
Sablan, Kiana Cecilia N.
Santos, Dylan D.
Sasamoto, Hitomi Rosa S.
Steele, Lyssa Rae P.
Taimanao, Aryana Carmen A.
Tenorio, Malina Rose B.
Toskas, Ari James
Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo Z.
- 3rd GRADE**
Dayrit, Jenarisa Mae S.
Gamab, Gwen Tiffany D.
Guerrero, Ruben Antonio C.
Propst, Devin Jordan M.
Reyes, Vicente Jose
Sablan, Andrew B.
San Nicolas, Earle Gabreil L.
- 4th GRADE**
Cabrera, Kyla Monique B.
Dela Cruz, Kina M.
Galang, Raphael Christian P.
Green, Lynzey Valencia C.

- Hunter, Brissa C.
Muna, Breanna S.
Ortiz, Brent Matthew E.
Palacios, Ryonaa Exsaleen S.
Park, Jun Lee
Sablan, Mathew Adrian A.
Sasamoto, Yurihana Rosa D.
- 5th GRADE**
Aldave, Lynette Anne D.
Alvarez, Robin Kyle M.
Bucalig, Fiona Marielle A.
Combinido, Jewel Monique M.
Diaz, Jeremiah Jerome H.
Guerrero, Christian Felix C.
Mallari, Vaughn Andrei A.
Propst, Kiana Lei M.
Sablan, Vidal Jose B.
Steele, Richard Ramon P.
Tenorio, Mariana B.
Villar, Jedric Nathaniel C.
- 6th GRADE**
Averdano-Woodruff, Katherine S.
Hunter, Brandee C.
Kang, Kevin
Minami, William Kazuki
Sablan, Penelope F.
Tomboc, Reuben Christian O.

- 7th GRADE**
Ham, Jim Michael V.
- 8th GRADE**
Han, Louisa Sa
Macaranas, Dayna Lou M.
Ramirez, Reica Jucel A.
- 9th GRADE**
Lazaro, Maria Christine M.
Melchor, Jeff Matthew B.
Palacios, Michelle Lin
Torres, Cassidy Victoria C.
Toskas, Jonelle Gwyneth
Uti, Monica Aira B.
Zheng, Rui Hua Theresa Xu

- 10th GRADE**
Cushing, Arron C.
Deleon Guerrero Jr., Zeno C.
Doctor, Jacqueline B.
Ortiz, Michael Roy E.
Palacios, Cheng Yang
Hunter, Brianna C.
Han, Ya
Santos, Joshua G.

- 11th GRADE**
Evangelista, Amalina L.
Iwai, Emiri Angela
Javier, Cathryn Jane A.
Kim, Ki Youn
Manglona, Thomas Lee, li A.
Pak, Han Byeol

- Pangelinan, Jonathan R.
12th GRADE
Babauta, Peter Thomas A.
Camacho, William D.
Dandan, Miguel L.
Delos Santos, Savannah Lyn R.
Kim, Da Hyun
Lazaro, Maria Fe Andrea M.
Lee, Woo Ri (Esther)
Romolur, Itchakomi Neiwoolm T.
Sato, Masami
Seo, Grace Yoo
Son, Jung Hyun (Tony)

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.66
or above and must not have any
behavior grade of U or NI.

- 1st GRADE**
Bahillo, Ida-Candida, Emelia S.
Cruzana, Joaquin Ian M.
Pangelinan, Joseph Brandon R.
Rabauliman, Sophia Miley O.
Santiago, Gavril Myles R.
- 2nd GRADE**
Chae, Davina K.
Duenas, Quimari Liwerscheng B.
Mallari, Audrein Jennifer M.
Sablan, Aaliyah Victoria B.
Taisacan, Nevaeh Sky B.
- 3rd GRADE**
Blanco, Elisa Ellen E.
Bocagor, Ranasia S.
Dela Cruz, L'wina Lynn
Manglona, Aiyana Jade R.
Reyes, Tiffany Geraldine M.
Tolentino, Leyonne Alfred F.
Torres, Maria Yoshie C.
- 4th GRADE**
Baldazo, Keehara Nielsen V.
Diaz, Carlo Crisdeo H.
Muna, Sienna Jade B.
Omar, Salina Jacklyn I.
Pangelinan, Manuel Jacinto M.
Reyes, Tiara Maya I.
Sablan, Aubriana-Maria A.
Sasamoto, Derek Moritaro S.
- 5th GRADE**
Chong, Kevin Daisuke M.
Mafnas, Christopher Adam L.
Mendiola, Alleah Marie R.
Muna, Devon Tyler S.
Schweiger, Theresa Rose C.
Sheu, Jefferey Yue
Tenorio, Joshua C.
Travilla, Kaia D.
- 6th GRADE**
Ayuyu, Maria Kanako E.
Galang, Aldrine Angelo P.
Reyes, Kyana Frances D.
Santos, Christian Joe B.

- Sato, Maaya
Torres, Dominic G.
7th GRADE
Borja, Kalea Lou B.
Kim, Yu Dam
Reyes, Blake Anthony M.
Yamagata-Santos,
Danielle Jaden K.
- 8th GRADE**
Acosta, Ydylle Faye C.
Attao, Alyssa P.
Batusin, Aldwin Ray T.
Castro, Rosa Engracia P.
Cho, Hyo Lim
Cunanan, Erika Gabrielle D.
Gomez, Peyton Ha'ani R.
Manese, Angelo Gabriel C.
Pangelinan, Joanna Marie R.
Pangelinan, Rosalia Francine A.
Sato, Karen
- 9th GRADE**
Heo, Paul
Kim, Tae Yeon
Lee, Jae Hee (Herald)
Lim, Nathanael Doh
Mafnas, Shana Marie L.
Manibusan, Tawnie D.
Mendiola, Erika Marie R.
Salas, Darian Jacob D.
Villacrusis, Geuel Christian M.
Yun, Seok Jun
- 10th GRADE**
Camacho, Eligiah Marie P.
Camacho, Keona A.
Castro, Jose Antonio P.
Higuchi, Kai
Jun, You Jin
Kim, Myeong Je
Lee, Eric
Minami, Edward Yuuki
Reyes, Karleen R.
Santos, Myles D.
Tkel, Zander P.
Travilla, Jan-Nasia Jean B.
- 11th GRADE**
Amog, Quina Ely E.
Hirayama, Risa
Kim, Min Gyu
Kim, Seo Hyeon
Kwon, So Hyun
Ryu, Sung Hun
Taimanao, Janika T.
Takahashi, Mikiya
- 12th GRADE**
Ahn, Sung Min
Camacho, Luisa Marie V.
Kim, Kyung Min
Perez, Sean Hikaru H.
Roxas, John Dexter V.
Tenorio, Pedro M.
Yamagata, Raymond Kenji A.
Yoo, Helen



January 26, 2011

Fund ordered to pay US govt part of convicted ex-CRM official's pension
The federal court has ordered the NMI Retirement Fund to pay the U.S. government \$100 per period from the retirement pension of a former Coastal Resources Management official who was convicted in 2007 of wire fraud. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman said the \$100 payments will be directly taken from Benny K. Pangelinan's pension and shall continue until his debt to the U.S. government is paid in full. "It is further ordered that any amounts which the [Fund] may be holding pursuant to the writ of continuing garnishment shall immediately be turned over to the Clerk's Office, (U.S. District Court for the NMI)," said Wiseman in an order issued Tuesday.

IRS: Defunct MGM factory, Tinian Dynasty owe \$317K in federal taxes
The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has disclosed that the defunct Marianas Garment Manufacturing and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino owe more than \$317,000 in federal taxes. IRS filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a notice of federal tax lien on MGM and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, saying

these two have unpaid federal taxes in the amount of \$214,277.63 and \$103,091.41 respectively. IRS said they are giving notice that taxes (including interest and penalties) have been assessed against MGM and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and that they have made a demand for payment of this liability to no avail.

January 26, 2008

'Govt's contribution rate cut applied ahead of law'
The Fitial administration started implementing the 18-percent retirement contribution rate before the rate reduction became a law, it was learned on Friday. The Public School System said that last pay period, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos instructed his staff to reduce the employer share of retirement payments for PSS from 24 percent to 18 percent and failed to pay the employer share of insurance premiums. Board of Education chairperson Lucia Blanco-Maratita and Education Commissioner David M. Borja said that the Finance Department's action was illegal, as Public Law 14-98 protected PSS from any rate increase on the employer share of retirement contributions for five years.

Congress asked for stimulus rebates for NMI
As the House of Representatives prepares to pass an economic stimulus package next week, Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio has teamed up with representatives from the other territories to get the benefits outlined for taxpayers in the 50 states to be extended to the taxpayers of the territories. In the agreement announced by the White House, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, individual taxpay-

ers would get up to \$600 in rebates, working couples \$1,200 and those with children an additional \$300 per child.

January 26, 2004

Court releases alleged drug peddler to mom
The U.S. District Court has allowed a suspected drug trafficker's temporary release to his mother before he faces a jury trial almost two months from now. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson released 25-year-old Vicente David Cabrera on an unsecured \$25,000-bond, of which the defendant's mother, Aida Cabrera, was co-signor. The court also appointed the mother as the defendant's third-party custodian. As part of the conditions for his temporary release, the defendant would be subject to curfew and restricted to his home from 6pm to 6am daily, the court said. Munson set the jury trial to begin on March 22, after the defendant pleaded "not guilty" to three counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Bennett resigns from TRC
Newly elected teacher representative for public schools Ambrose Bennett has resigned from his own group, the Teachers Representative Committee, in what he calls as a move to promote greater unity among teachers in the Public School System. "For ethical reasons, I must resign from TRC effective today. As an elected teacher representative, I owe it to the PSS teachers to really represent them on the Board of Education. I cannot effectively do it if I'm affiliated with a particular group like TRC; so to avoid the teachers from being polarized further, I'm taking this initiative to resign [from TRC]," said Bennett in an interview yesterday.

Hocog wants CHCC board, CEO to work together

Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota) echoed a colleague's call that a bill changing the advisory board of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. into a governing one should first pass muster before the Senate passes it.

"We need to seriously look at the situation that happened in the House first before we pass that. We have issue to amend and extract from the provisions that [are] there," he said, referring to Senate Bill 19-04, which

was prefiled by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) last Jan. 20.

"We need to look into [the] qualifications of the governing board. We want to make sure both the CEO and whoever will be he governing board will be in service to one another rather than having any controversy."

Like what Santos earlier said, Hocog would like the bill to be thoroughly reviewed first before it even reaches the Senate chamber for a vote.

"Sometimes we like to put boundaries between regulatory policymakers and governing board and administrators and I want that addressed in the bill so the responsibilities of both parties will be clear. So there will be no micromanagement by the board on the CEO. We need to understand that the CEO is there daily to

communicate with federal entities that require immediate attention on the procedures of the hospital," he said.

Unlike the previous version of the bill that passed the Senate sans public hearing or a committee report, Hocog vowed that the Senate would not make the same mistake twice on SB 19-04.



Hocog

partment to the new healthcare corporation, therefore empowering the board of trustees "to make policies and perform all acts necessary and expedient to ensure the delivery of quality care in a financially responsible manner for the people of the Commonwealth."

Public Law 16-51 is the law that transformed the erstwhile Department of Public Health into the autonomous CHCC. *(Mark Rabago)*

Frank Borja is named Tinian delegation chair



MARK RABAGO

From left, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R- Tinian), Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) pose for a group photo following last Friday's Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation organizational meeting at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

people," he said.

The delegation chair also told Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas that the local delegation is ready to work with him. Aside from Borja, also elect-

Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) was unanimously elected as Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chairman during an organizational meeting Friday in his office at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

All four members of the delegation—Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R- Tinian), Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian), and Borja himself—voted for Borja.

"I thank all members for their support and confidence in me to be the chairman of this delegation. I also welcome our two new delegation members, Edwin Aldan and Jude Hofschneider. I know that you're not new to being legislators."

Borja enjoined all delegation members to cooperate with each other in advancing the interests of the Second Senatorial District.

"Let's work together and let's work hard. We're faced with a lot of obstacles but with us working together, we'll have a faster and easier time to accomplish our roles for our

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 07-0495

-v- :

The Estate of GREGORIO VILLAGOMEZ :
DELEON GUERRERO and JACINTA P. :
GUERRERO, :
Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 13, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: That certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Fina Sisú, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

Lot H-164-7 A (part of H-164-7), more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is design as Corner no. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 47,750.80 meters North and 50,896.98 meters East on the Mariana Islands Coordinate System of 1966;

Thence North 02° 42' 45" West, 34.24 meters to corner no. 2;
Thence South 77° 45' 51" East, 28.00 meters to corner no. 3;
Thence South 02° 20' 27" East, 34.72 meters to corner no. 4;
Thence North 76° 44' 18" West, 28.00 meters to corner no. 1;
The point of beginning;

Containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 31st day of December, 2014:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 11-0044

-v- :

HENRY SABLAN HOFSCHEIDER :
and ELENA BABAUTA :
HOFSCHEIDER, :
Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 72, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 6, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 13-0068

-v- :

AUGUSTINA I. KUKKUN, :
Defendant. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 29, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 005 I 540, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,334 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 6, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DPW/SWMD-032

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2015
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR ONE (1) YEAR. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

 - a. August 26, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
 - b. December 10, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
 - c. January 12, 2015 Special Board Meeting (13th)
 - d. January 12, 2015 Inaugural Board Meeting (14th)

II. Public Comments'

III. Reports

1. Chair
2. Board Committees

 - a. FPA

3. Commissioner of Education

 - a. Financial Status Reports

 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local

- b. Head Start Program Report
- c. Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

1. Early Intervention Program Annual Performance Report
2. Special Education Program Annual Performance Report
3. Resolution: Bank Signatory Updates
4. Proclamation: Counselor's Week Feb. 2-6, 2015

VI. Executive Session'

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters

1. Certification and Licensure Matters

 - a. CLO Recommendation Memo#2015-001
 - b. CLO Recommendation Memo#2015-001 Addendum No. 1

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

To Obama, family leave is a family value

In rolling out the issues he hopes will define the final two years of his administration, President Obama has proposed two workplace initiatives: requiring companies with 15 or more employees to provide them seven days of sick leave per year to their full-time workers, and encouraging states to establish paid family leave programs for new parents or workers tending to family members with significant health issues. As with most such proposals, the devil will be in the details, but we believe the president is on the right track.

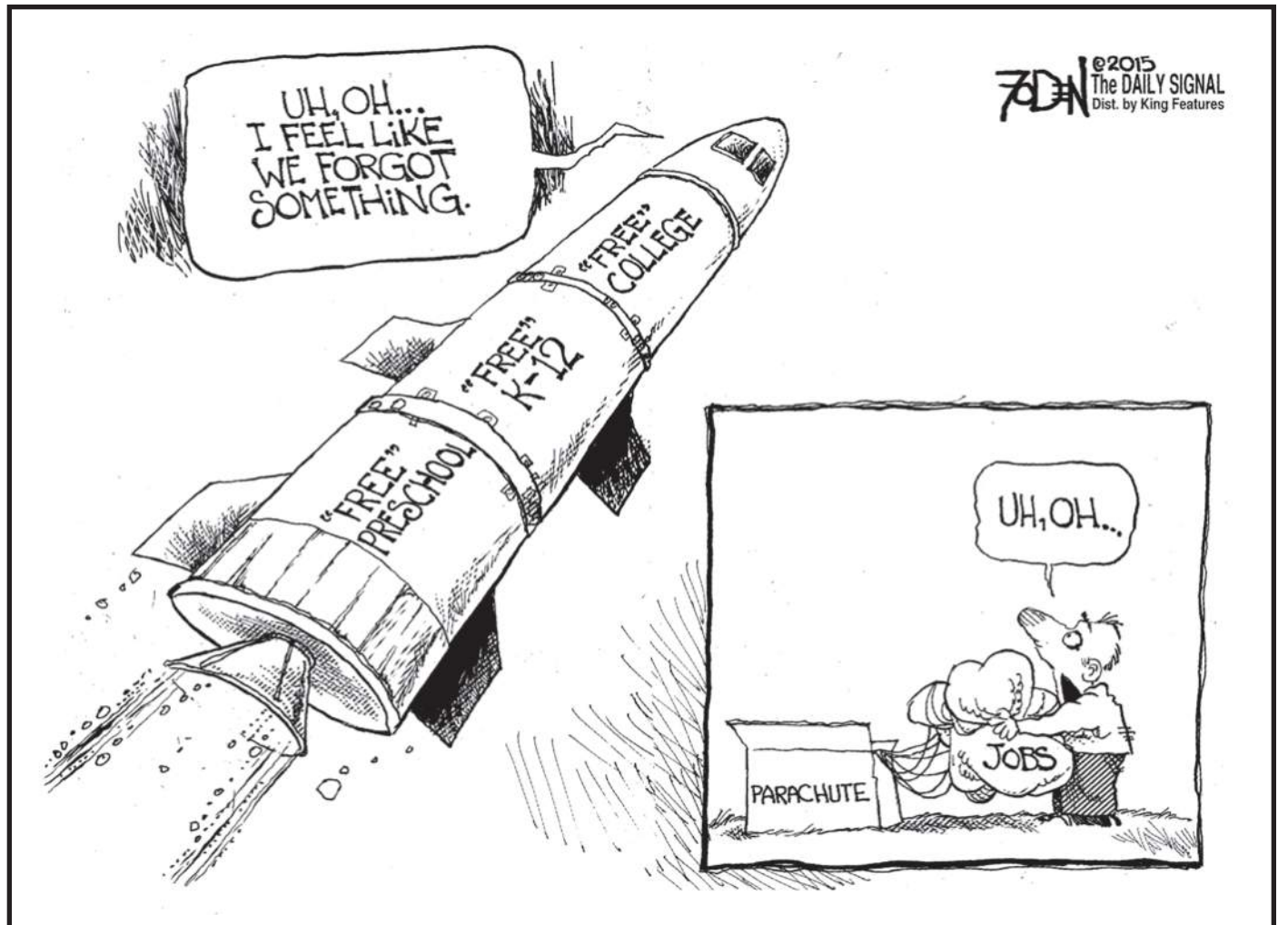
In fact, California got there first. Under the state's Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014, as of July 1 employees who work at least 30 days in a year must be offered one hour of sick pay — up to 24 hours total — for every 30 hours worked. (The president's proposal is more ambitious.) And the State Disability Insurance program's Paid Family Leave, first offered more than a decade ago, seems to be working well. It pays 55 percent of lost wages, up to about \$1,100 a week, for a maximum of six weeks for new parents or people taking time off to care for ailing relatives. The program is funded through workers' payroll deductions.

Instituting sick leave for workers nationwide makes sense: Those who are ill should not have to choose between recuperation and a day or two of pay. It's true that allowing workers to accrue paid sick days could add to employers' costs of doing business depending on how it is financed, but the public good outweighs that concern — especially when workers come in close contact with others as part of their job.

The president is asking Congress to create a formal leave program for federal employees. His solution for private-sector workers, however, relies on action by the states. Obama instructed the Department of Labor to offer up to \$1 million from the current budget for competitive grants to help states conduct feasibility studies on family leave programs. In addition, the budget he'll soon propose will include a \$2.2-billion request to help five unspecified states administer and pay for family leave programs. We have some reservations about a policy that rewards states that have not yet addressed this issue — at the expense of states that have. But given the lack of details, we'll reserve final judgment.

The U.S. lags far behind the rest of the industrialized world in recognizing that a healthy workforce is a productive workforce, and that mothers, especially, often sacrifice income and in some cases careers for their families. If we are a nation that values families, our work policies should reflect that.

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The sly who came in from the cold

“Sly” in our title refers to both a deceptive and secretive person, a take off from our contribution to this page last Monday on the *Spy Who Came Into the Cold*. We leave readers to decide which quality is more preeminent than the other in our case as gleaned from this page in the last decade!

A debate on whether one is a “sly” or not sounds like the vying perspectives of a glass half-empty or one that is half-full. We would rather focus on the glass, and yes, Virgil, I am sly. So let's move out of the cold into the warm.

Warm is the tropics, geographically defined as that distance between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, 23 degrees apiece north and south of the equator. I write from 'Pinas where my eldest sister, her husband and her brood sans daughter who lawyers in Melbourne Down Under, decided to remain while the rest of her siblings sailed out to Honolulu *Paraiso*, on the southern latitude of the northern temperate zone slightly above the Tropic of Cancer!

Warm was the welcome at Ninoy International Airport, no longer infested with the leeching horde of *delihensiya* of bygone years, refreshingly professional sans the frequent allusions to “*ang lagay ba naman*” casually aired, especially among the numerous *balikbayan* boxes waiting to be examined that overseas workers delight in flying back home to appease the *pasalubong* requirements of relations back at the clan. The security personnel and luggage pushers, however, remain heavily solicitous!

I made it clear earlier to nephews and nieces and their young ‘uns that the poor uncle from China was coming but they were not to expect any *pasalubongs*. That reveals how badly the pocketbook was hit by the international recession and domestic inflation in China's economy. (Boy, that sounds like a great phrase of an excuse; in fact, my monastic lifestyle precludes the accumulation of wealth I would not know how to make anyway!)

Ensconcing myself in the cold winds of *Dong Bei* of Manchuria, I am resigned to spending the remaining 17 years of my gallivanting trudging snow, muffled and wrapped on the lower air streams of Siberia. This trip to the tropics is intended to be my “Adios, *Paalam* (literally, *that you know*), Goodbye,” to lady Pilipinas and her fair entourage as we near the completion of our 70th year of corporeal existence and essence.

My eldest daughter of Euro-Anglo-Sino-Indo-Malay descent once unfurled her bared existential banner at an Illinois U: “Mongrels of the World, Unite!” She dabbled in French, spending a year in Provence's Avignon, so we will forgive her “arise, ye downtrodden” version of *L'Internationale*!

I have no banner to unfurl; am just a regular mongrel out of Southeast Asia, now increasingly revealing a Zhinoy pedigree. “Zhinoy” is our version of the marriage of *Zhongguoren*

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



and *Pinoy* (aka, Chinese and Pilipino mixed DNA) though like many parts of the world, the Chinese of our neighborhood knowledge are the water people of the Hakka Hans of the famed snail pit circular dwellings, like the *Tianluokeng Tulou* Cluster of the Yongding County in *Fujian*. Imaginative China has been tropical. (This might be too much geography to handle in one sitting!)

Also known as *Ke Jia*, the “guest people” because they were moved by the Ming Dynasty to other parts of China, they predominate in south Fujian and northeast Guangdong (including Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and much of Hainan). They've proven to be on the vanguard of China's post-1912 events.

Among their numbers are the Soong sisters Ching-ling, who married Sun Yat Sen, and Mei Ling, who married Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek of the *Goumintang* who fled to Taiwan; Sun Yat Sen (aka, *Sun Zhong Shan* in China), is father to modern China, Deng Xiaoping the smart diminutive, Lee Kuan Yew, the revered elder statesman of Singapore, and for good measure, Chow Yun-fat, the HK movie star of western acquaintance.

Chinatowns of our familiar from Calgary to Honolulu, Nauru to Peru, Kingston to London, Lahore to Singapore, Chicago to Tokyo, and many more, are peopled by *Ke Jia* Hakka, ever willing to up-and-go on the first sign of discord, ready to seed the planet with Sino DNA and consciousness deeply rooted in the tranquil yet eternally balancing pressure of the pivot point of life's *yin-yang*.

That tradition, friendly to my own born-and-raised consciousness from northern Luzon where the Hakka Chinese is predominantly in residence, lay richly though subconsciously underneath my awareness as well. And in the natural heat of struggle to exist in space, and endless quest for meaning in time's specific social milieu, we find comrades among tropical creatures in the land of *Zhongguo's* Qin and Han.

So we revisit our warm bloodstream, awake to the choice to straddle the frozen tundra of body sense, feelings, thoughts and deeds in the icy winds of *Dong Bei*. But for now, we bask in the sun, seep our Laguna cocoa and *cape de* Batangas. This sly, warm-hearted and hot-headed, is home.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Priorities and accountability

Bills introduced, passed, and enacted into law show that public funds were appropriated for things that are not only non-priority but also lack accountability, when they could have gone to funding even the most basic crime-solving tools such as fingerprinting, building a tamper-free crime evidence room or re-training police officers.

When does appropriating \$3,000 to \$100,000 in public funds for fishing derbies and funding private corporation's shell operations, for example, become more important than properly equipping and training law enforcement?

The public's call for a more responsible appropriation of taxpayers' money isn't new. Here's hoping the 19th Legislature would be much better in this area than their predecessors.

Misplaced priorities have gone on for years and lawmakers started believing it's expected of them to fund private activities with little to no accountability at all.

Certain special interest private groups have relied on lawmakers' appropriations instead of holding their own private fundraisers or applying for available federal grants to fund their private causes.

Yet, one sees public school students patiently sell hot lunches, clean other peoples' cars or hold other fundraisers just so they can participate in educational and extra-curricular programs and activities.

Sometimes one wonders why lawmakers would even put up "No solicitation" signs on Capital Hill when they basically entertain solicitations from favored families, friends, and special interest groups or businesses in the form of introducing and passing special interest bills.

And because the recipients of lawmaker-appropriated public funds are private interest groups and activities, the former are not necessarily required to account for how they spent the money that could have gone to pressing public safety issues.

This piece makes reference to prioritizing funding public safety programs because ensuring a safe and secure environment takes precedence over almost everything else for any society to properly

function. And that includes the ability to prevent and solve murders, human disappearances, burglaries, assaults and all other crimes.

Within days, private citizens were able to raise \$20,000 as reward for anyone with information leading to the whereabouts of missing businessman Zhi Yuan Li, to cite as an example. Yet, at least 18 earlier batches of lawmakers failed to fully fund and equip a state-of-the-art crime laboratory for the Department of Public Safety nor fund the hiring of the CNMI's own medical examiner. Or a professional economist to help the CNMI navigate its present and future.

The law also allows legislators to appropriate and re-appropriate public funds to go toward precinct projects such as road repairs, road paving, basketball court construction and repairs, school bus repainting, and so on. But many of these bills fail to address accountability.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, for example, had to repeatedly ask lawmakers to refrain from using the phrase "various projects" when referring to precinct projects that they propose to fund in their bills.

Such advice makes for sensible appropriation bills for projects that are "specifically and properly identified to ensure funds are used to those specific projects and that funds are adequately allocated."

Saipan Local Law 18-1, for example, re-appropriates fund balances amounting to \$185,344 "for various projects in Precinct V." The same local law made references to \$85,000 "for various projects in Precinct II" and \$375,000 "for various projects in Precinct V," along with the rest of the other precincts in separate bills.

What these "various projects" are mostly remains a mystery and funds either remain unaccounted for or are sitting idle under a government business unit. Bills also do get passed to pay for "overran accounts" such as in the case of Saipan Local Law 18-2.

One expects that a lawmaker introduces an appropriation bill that identifies a funding source to fund a specific program. But Governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, immigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years. She holds a journalism degree from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and is a recipient of professional awards and commendations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's environmental achievement award for her environmental reporting.

Inos and his predecessors also had to repeatedly remind lawmakers to make sure that appropriated amounts are equal to or less than anticipated revenues and are available. An example is Saipan Local Law 18-3.

Governors also had to remind lawmakers to carefully review future programs and projects "to ensure the activities needing the most funding and that are most beneficial to the community as a whole are given priority." Most Saipan local laws dealing with fund appropriations and re-appropriations in the 18th Legislature fell short of such careful considerations. Again, it was also the case in previous legislatures.

The public shouldn't get tired of making their lawmakers and all other elected officials accountable for their actions, including introducing bills that safeguard public funds and public trust.

If not, lawmakers could easily turn the CNMI into a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the gambling capital of the Western Pacific, for example, if they're left to pass their bills without careful considerations, without adequate public hearings, and without public scrutiny.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What needs to be done for true healthcare reform

Well, here I am at 2am finishing up my suggested revisions to Public Law 16-51. My initial version of this was changed a bit as it now appears on the pre-bill form, House Bill 19-04, so I have worked hard to restore key elemental changes. Some of these are:

- (1) The separation of the administrative and medical professional arms of the corporation;
- (2) Protection of the doctor-patient relationship, self-policed by the medical professional arm only through two peer review committees;
- (3) The board of trustees oversees both arms of the corporation;
- (4) Eliminates the practice of medicine by the untrained CEO;
- (5) Encourages partnering between the public sector CCHC and private doctors so that additional services can spread to Tinian, Rota and Saipan itself;
- (6) It really puts Tinian and Rota on the map and pathway for healthcare reform;
- (7) Term limits where appropriate;
- (8) accountability of the CEO and the board all the way up to the Senate, who are the people's elected representatives;
- (9) Creation of a much-needed Surgeon General since we really don't have a functioning public health department that is tracking the crucial current needs and future needs of all of the islands. This position may interface with the Peace Corps or military medical personnel. We need redundancy of facilities and providers and expansion into current non-served areas;
- (10) To remove unnecessary master's degree boundaries that legislation would put on candidates because a bachelor's degree plus many years of education can be equally effective.

Perhaps the most important reason for healthcare reform is to create the oversight and remove the small power-based pockets of control that lie in the hands of non-elected people in our healthcare system.

There are things that both opponents and critics can debate but what we can agree on is that changes need to be made in order to grow healthcare access and services for the CNMI. For self-serving reasons, Mr. Raho, CEO Muna and Sherleen Osman don't seem to think we need any healthcare reform at all.

The government belongs to the people and in keeping with that

basic premise, my proposed changes set a clear chain of command from the people to their elected officials to the board of trustees and then a division to two separate functioning arms of the CHC corporation: the administrative arm and the medical professional arm. This ensures that doctors and patients make their relationship and decisions free from outside and unnecessary influences.

I have spent 28 years in healthcare and, as a surgeon, have never had so much as a malpractice case filed. I currently sit on a board certification examination board of orthopedic surgery in the United States. At the risk of sounding less humble, I have earned a place to propose these healthcare changes.

There are patients whom I operated on that I have never seen again. One was from Tinian. Many patients had so much difficulty getting to the CHCC hospital from the other islands. Orthopedic care is currently reduced to a contract with a doctor from Guam who was run out by the administration and malpractice suits.

Former House representative Ana Teregeyo was mismanaged and sent home with an infection by an orthopedic physician assistant who was not necessarily supervised by an orthopedic surgeon. What has she had to finally correct this? Four subsequent surgeries. It was my honor to snatch her from Saipan and bring her to the mainland where she allowed me to participate in her reconstruction. It would be my humble wish that this is a testament to my character and thus my entrance to correcting the much needed small power bases through healthcare reform. I would like to see a future where what happened to Ms. Teregeyo and what is currently still happening can never happen again to the people of the NMI. Somewhere along the way, if the new oversight means that what happened to me, Dr. Gary Ramsey, and others, then all the better.

We need to expand medical providers not only on Saipan but Tinian and Rota alike. It is no longer safe to put all of our hospital and operating room needs in the hands of one place, the CHC. The government simply does not have the money to go about building surgical centers and mini-hospitals the size of grocery mini-markets on Tinian and Rota and on the other side of Saipan. These energy efficient and low administrative centers are a must for the future of the people of the CNMI. So how do we do it? We build future partnerships between the public and private sectors. We make it easier to attract more private physicians instead of chasing them away.

One thing that I did not put in the bill, mostly because I did not know how to do it legally is to fix the rates on electricity (12 cents per kilowatt hour on the mainland) and water (0.005 cents per gallon on the mainland), from the CUC. This could be subject to increases only by an index fixed to inflation. Everyone needs to do their part to save healthcare and the CUC maybe needs to be mandated to do their part.

As you know, I feel passionately about this and I have put about 100 hours into the thought processes of this. I will readily make myself available to the senators and to the Senate Healthcare Committee via FaceTime in order to give my testimony.

Thank you for believing in this project. The CNMI needs this healthcare reform!

Dr. Grant Walker

via email

Should you legalize marijuana?

I think they should charge a big license fee.

I think they should set up separate application fees: one to grow and one to sell.

I think they should require that applicants must have a certification of a licensed Medicinal Doctrine's Certification to sell.

I think they should have age eligibility requirements to grow and sell.

Only local residents can grow and sell. They can hire laborers but not buy from another farmer. They can be allowed to have a business partner, but must pay for another business license fee.

Both consumers and vendors must pay taxes.

Enforcement law should be very strict. Failure to comply will lose the license to sell, grow, and consume.

And can only be sold in areas designated by the licensing board. The board members should include five experts on medicinal and behavioral science and Agriculture Life Science, three consumers, three providers, and three from the government Agencies. A total of 14 board members. Fifty percent of the board must be local resident.

No import or export of product should be allowed. (LOL, I bet everyone is thinking of such.)

I think the members of the Legislature should do research and public education first before you legalize it. I still think it's important for the safety of our tiny island.

Members of the Legislature should consider bringing in experts for public education and awareness of such product you're going to legalize to produce and sell.


Winnie Atalig

San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼79°


TUESDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼79°


WEDNESDAY



Partly cloudy.
Isolated showers.

▲88° ▼79°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼79°

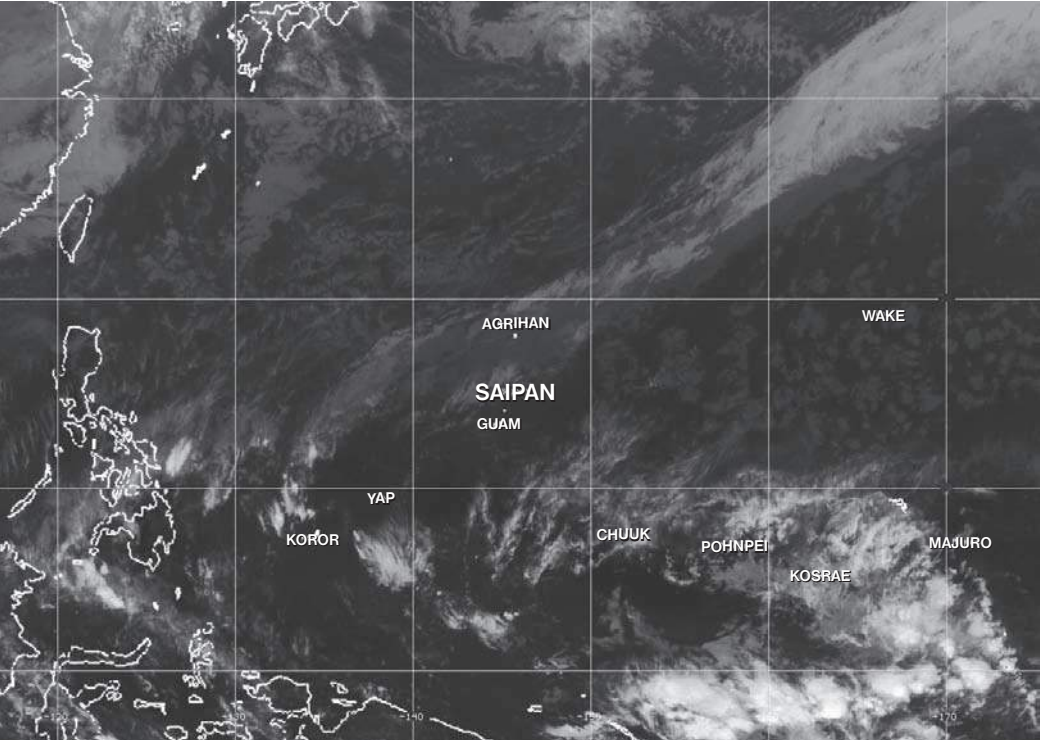
FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼79°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015


Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N161E to 20N152E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 11N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found over the Northern Marianas and Minami Tori Shima along and up to 350 miles northwest of these boundaries. An old shear line meanders westward from 9N167E to 8N158E to 11N146E. Clouds and patchy rain are present north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae along and up to 100 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 2N158E to 2N166E to EQ172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over portions of Kosrae state and southwest of Majuro between the equator and 6N from 158E to 172E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Windy	▲83	▼81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲50	▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼26
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲40	▼29
Pusan	Sunny	▲48	▼31
Rome	Showers	▲56	▼48
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲42	▼26
Tokyo	Windy	▲53	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼30



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
12:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:09 AM	11:53 PM
Tuesday	11:56 AM	
Wednesday	12:44 PM	12:49 AM
Thursday	1:33 PM	1:43 AM
Friday	2:22 PM	2:37 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:5				

Saipan Chamber of Commerce names new board members

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced its new set of board directors at an installation dinner held Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Named in the chamber's 2015 board of directors were Alex Sablan of CTSI Logistics, Velma Palacios of IT&E, Mike Johnson of Deloitte & Touche, Christopher Concepcion of Delta Air Lines, Ron Smith of Angil Designs, Natalie Mable Ayuyu of Re/Max Realty, Donna Krum, associate member; C.E. "Bud" White, associate member; and Curtis Gillespie of Kaynomi Enterprises.

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Inos led the installation of the new board members.

Ayuyu, Gillespie, Krum, and White replace outgoing secretary Greg Moretti, Kevin McCale, Rosemond B. Santos, and Nola K. Hix as directors.

As a sidelight of the formal ceremonies, the chamber also held a silent auction to raise funds for charity.

Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski earlier said items donated for the Saturday event included a Regency Club overnight accommodations at the Hyatt, Hyatt Kili dinner buffets, Giovanni's brunches, McDonald's food certificates, a round trip Delta Air Lines ticket to Ja-

pan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan overnight stay and waterpark passes, Magellan lunches, World Resort Spaness and Jungle Wave

passes, one year DSL service from IT&E, a Galaxy Note 4 from Docomo, a round-trip ticket to anywhere in Asia from

United Airlines, and a Gucci handbag from T Galleria.

Aside from the announcement of the new board of di-

rectors, the chamber also announced its "2015 Business Person of the Year," which went to PIC's Vicky Benavente.

PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO



CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos inducts the new board of director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



Best Sunshine International Ltd. CEO Mark A. Brown was the Installation Dinner's keynote speaker.



Pacific Islands Club Saipan executive assistant Vicky Benavente, the 2014 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year, is handed a bouquet of flowers by her son as Jim Arenovski assists.



Jim Arenovski served as the emcee of last Saturday's Installation Dinner of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



April Sablan, right, and two other Chamber staff pose for Saipan Tribune.



2014 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year Vicky Benavente poses with her family on stage after receiving the prestigious award.

PH Consul General Borja touches base with NMI officials

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consul General to Guam, Marciano De Borja, led a series of courtesy visits to some of the CNMI's top officials on Thursday, touching up on lighthearted fare like Pope Francis' recent visit to the Philippines, as well as issues shared with the CNMI like the need for a consulate on Saipan and the anticipated workforce demands of multi-billion dollar investors building in the CNMI in the coming years.

Borja's Capital Hill tour had him meeting with Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, Senate President Victor Hocog and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, as well as Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan.

Joining Borja were Philippine consul Mark Francis Hamoy, Philippine Consulate General information officer Allan Tangayan, United Filipino Organizations officers Maria Annamae Adaza and Bong Malasarte, and soon to be "honorary consul" on Saipan, Eli Arago.

On behalf of the Philippine government, Borja extended his warmest congratulations to Torres for his victory in the November elections last year.

They talked about working with Philippine Labor officials in getting the CNMI prepared for future labor demands.

Consul Hamoy suggested that a symposium on Philippine labor practices be held, just like in Guam where top labor officials gave presentations that clarified "how the [labor] process works on our end."

This could also happen in the CNMI, Borja's team said, to "facilitate the deployment of skilled workers."

Borja touched on similar topics with the Senate president and House speaker. Deleon Guerrero asked Borja if the Philippine government would reconsider the closure of its consular office on Saipan, as even a satellite office here



DENNIS B. CHAN

Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja and Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres join consulate and United Filipino Organization officials in a photo on Capital Hill after a courtesy visit Thursday afternoon.



DENNIS B. CHAN

Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja, second from left, speaks while Senate President Victor Hocog, center, and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, right, listen during the consul's visit to the Legislature last week.



DENNIS B. CHAN

From left to right are UFO president Bong Malasante, Philippine consul Mark Francis Hamoy, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja, Senate President Victor Hocog, UFO secretary Marie Annamae Adaza, Eli Arago, and Mario Mayuga.

could "facilitate administrative and passport issues" for the Filipino community.

Borja said with a new ad-

ministration in the Philippines next year, they "will be proposing on how best to reestablish" their presence in the CNMI. A

smaller office could perhaps be considered, he said.

Borja's visit to the CNMI coincides with the PCG's first

consular mission to the CNMI this year at the Pedro P. Teno-rio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Borja's team aims to

hold six missions, every other month this year, to help with passport processing, among other things.



DENNIS B. CHAN

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam gave baskets of Filipino goodies to CNMI leaders during their courtesy visit to Capital Hill last Thursday afternoon.



DENNIS B. CHAN

Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja and other officials pose for a photo with House Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan at his office last Thursday afternoon.

Business

\$2 gasoline: Good times keep rolling at the pump

NEW YORK (AP)—At some point this will end, perhaps even soon. The price of gasoline will not fall to zero.

But for the first time since 2009, most Americans are paying less than \$2 a gallon. Just three months ago experts were shocked when it fell under \$3.

"It's crazy," says Michael Noel, an economics professor at Texas Tech University who studies oil and gasoline prices. "But for consumers it's very, very good."

Consumers and the economies of the U.S. and most of the rest of the world are basking in the lowest prices for crude oil and gasoline in six years. U.S. crude oil traded Friday just below \$46 a barrel and the average price for a gallon of gas was \$2.04.

While there are some losers, such as oil companies, the oil-producing states and the oil-exporting countries that benefited from \$100 a barrel for four straight years, most economists agree that the good outweighs the bad.

The drop in prices is acting like an immediate tax cut for drivers, leaving them more

money to spend on other things. The Energy Department predicts lower prices this year will save a typical household \$750 compared with last year.

Julia Conner paid \$1.98 a gallon Thursday near her home in Wesley Chapel, N.C. Saving on gas has made her more willing to go out for lunch with co-workers at the animal care and control office in Charlotte where she works, or out for dinner with her husband.

Pump prices have declined for a record 120 straight days, according to AAA, though the size of the declines is shrinking and the streak may soon end. But even if the price rises this spring, as it typically does, driving during summer travel season should still cost less than it has in years.

Conner is hoping she can afford a 300-mile roundtrip to Asheville, North Carolina, or even further away, to Tennessee, this summer. "Even if it's not \$1.98 that would definitely help as far as vacation goes," she said.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirov Financial, expects lower gasoline prices to



AP
Signs at two gas stations advertise unleaded gasoline for \$1.68, in Oklahoma City, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

help the U.S. economy to grow 3.3 percent this year, the highest since the economy grew at that pace in 2005. "This is one thing that hits the masses, not just a minority of people," she says. "There's some benefit for almost everyone."

It's also helping businesses with high fuel bills.

"We've been able to increase our net profits, which has allowed us to reward our employees with bonuses and also purchase three new vehicles to replace older ones," says Ricky Wingard, owner of Econ-O-Bug, a pest control company in Lexington, S.C. His fleet of 22 vehicles drive an average 1,600

miles a day.

Southwest Airlines told investors Thursday that it expects to save \$1.7 billion on fuel costs this year.

Other beneficiaries of low oil prices include some of the world's biggest economies, according to an analysis by Moody's: China, the eurozone, and Japan. Their gains will

far outstrip the losses that are pinching the budgets of exporting countries such as OPEC nations, Russia, and Norway.

Oil drillers that fueled a boom in U.S. production will suffer, along with states such as Texas and North Dakota that rely heavily on drilling activity. Oil service companies have announced layoffs of thousands of workers just in the past week, and the analysis firm Wood Mackenzie expects drilling investment in North America to fall by \$50 billion, or nearly 40 percent, over the next year.

But the oil exploration and production business, while sizeable, is small compared to the rest of the U.S. economy. And the U.S. still needs to import oil to meet its needs.

The big drop in oil prices, a result of rising production in the U.S. and elsewhere at a time when global demand growth is weak, means the U.S. is sending fewer dollars overseas.

Global economy hopes raised after European stimulus

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The global economic outlook just got brighter after this week's big stimulus from the European Central Bank, leading policymakers from around the world said Saturday.

In a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, they said a perkier Europe, coupled

with a prolonged period of low oil prices, could help shore up the global economy following a period of underperformance that has prompted many forecasters to reduce their growth forecasts.

"Lower oil prices and the big decision by ECB could further improve world economic outlook," said Haruhiko Kuroda,

governor of the Bank of Japan.

The ECB's planned 1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.2 trillion) stimulus has been one of the main talking points at Davos and has helped counter some of the pessimism that has enveloped the global economy in the past few weeks. Stock markets around the world have surged amid hopes the ECB move could help boost the ailing economy of the 19-country eurozone.

However, Benoit Coeure, an executive board member at the ECB, insisted that on its own, it won't be enough. He said governments across the region have to enact a raft of structural reforms to their economies, such as making their labor markets more flexible and encouraging businesses to invest.

"We have done our part, others have to do their part," he said. Coeure hoped the stimulus will give governments the space and encouragement to proceed with those measures.

"In the case of Europe, being patient is just a risk that we don't want to take," he said.

Some in Europe, particularly in Germany, are worried that the ECB's bond-buying program may ease the pressure on governments to do more to reform their economies.

In Germany, there's also concern the stimulus is debasing the euro currency—the prospect of more euros in circulation can weigh on the currency. The euro has fallen sharply since Thurs-

day's announcement, and is trading at 11-year lows around the \$1.12 mark.

That's potentially good news for eurozone exporters as it makes their wares cheaper in international markets. A lower euro can also boost inflation as imports get pricier. The primary motivation behind the stimulus is to get inflation in the eurozone back toward the target of just below 2 percent. Currently prices are falling modestly.

Coeure insisted the lower euro wasn't a primary motivation of the ECB, stressing that the ECB doesn't have an exchange rate target.

The euro's fall, he said, "was part of the channel" by which the stimulus works but "not the main consideration."

Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, also welcomed the ECB's stimulus and said low oil prices may prevail for longer than many people think.

"That creates an opportunity that is considerable and possibly undervalued for the global economy," he said.

Carney did issue one note of caution, warning that the current low interest rates around the world and the stimulus programs in Europe and Japan could prompt "excessive risk-taking." However, he said a better international supervisory framework means the world economy is more able to deal with that than it was before the global financial crisis in 2008.

United announces full-year and Q4 2014 profit

CHICAGO—United Airlines reported Friday full-year 2014 net income of \$1.97 billion, an increase of 89 percent year-over-year, or \$5.06 per diluted share, excluding \$834 million of special items. Including special items, UAL reported full-year net income of \$1.13 billion, or \$2.93 per diluted share. UAL reported fourth-quarter 2014 net income of \$461 million, an increase of 86 percent year-over-year, or \$1.20 per diluted share, excluding \$433 million of special items. Including special items, UAL reported fourth-quarter 2014 net income of \$28 million, or \$0.07 per diluted share.

■ UAL earned a 12.9 percent return on invested capital in 2014.

■ United's consolidated passenger revenue per available seat mile increased 1.6 percent for full-year 2014 compared to full-year 2013.

■ Full-year 2014 consolidated unit costs, excluding special charges, third-party business expenses, fuel and profit sharing, increased 1.3 percent year-over-year on a consolidated capacity increase of 0.3 percent. Full-year 2014 CASM, including those items, decreased 1.6 percent year-

over-year.

■ In 2014, United returned approximately \$320 million to shareholders as part of its previously announced \$1 billion share buyback program. In addition, throughout the year, United spent \$310 million to retire convertible debt that was convertible into approximately 5.8 million shares of UAL common stock.

■ Employees earned \$235 million in profit sharing for full-year 2014, which will be distributed on Feb. 13.

■ UAL ended the year with \$5.7 billion in unrestricted liquidity.

"Thanks to the good work of the United team, we reported a \$2 billion profit for 2014, excluding special items," said Jeff Smisek, UAL's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "We're starting 2015 as a better airline, and we expect to generate far better results. I'm excited about what we will do this year to improve our operations, our product, and our customer service, focusing on growing our core earnings and margins. For the first quarter, we expect our pre-tax margin to be between 5 and 7 percent, excluding special items. **(United)**

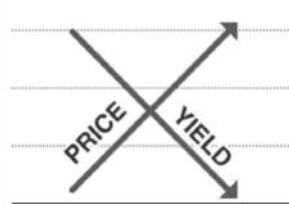
Quantitative easing

The European Central Bank, the bank in charge of monetary policy for the 19 eurozone countries, announced a plan to increase its asset-purchasing program to include government bonds, similar to quantitative easing actions taken by the Federal Reserve in the U.S.

What is quantitative easing?

The central bank creates new money to buy government-issued bonds from private banks, raising the demand, and therefore the price, of those bonds.

As bond prices increase, the relative amount of money gained back when the bond matures, or the **yield**, decreases.



This hopefully makes investment in government bonds—usually considered a safe investment—less attractive than investing in the general economy while also giving banks more cash to invest in hopes of stimulating the economy.

Amount bought from banks per month during quantitative easing

Approximate amounts, government bonds and other assets

EU	2015-2016	60 billion (~\$68 billion)
U.S.	QE3 2012-2014	\$50 billion
U.S.	QE2 2010-2011	\$75 billion

Source: Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Congressional Research Service
Graphic: Tyler Davis, Tribune News Service

Nation

Obama to cut short India trip to pay call on Saudi Arabia

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AP)—President Barack Obama will shorten his trip to India and divert to Saudi Arabia, paying respects after the death of King Abdullah and meeting with the oil-rich nation's new monarch, the White House said Saturday.

The scheduling shift, announced just before Obama left Washington, underscores the desert kingdom's pivotal role in U.S. policy in the Middle East, including the military

campaign against the Islamic State group.

Saudi Arabia's status as one of Washington's most important Arab allies has at times appeared to trump U.S. concerns about the terrorist funding that flows from the kingdom and about human rights abuses.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama would meet on Tuesday with King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and other officials to "offer his condolences on be-

half of the American people."

The president called Salman from Air Force One to express his sympathies on the passing of his older brother. The White House said the king welcomed the news that Obama would be traveling to Riyadh.

Obama's pivot comes two weeks after the White House faced criticism for not sending a high-level representative to Paris for a peace rally in the wake of terrorist attacks in France. The White House

later said it was a mistake that someone with more stature than the U.S. ambassador to France had not joined the dozens of world leaders who marched arm in arm through the boulevards of Paris.

White House officials said Obama's stop in Saudi Arabia was not influenced by the Paris misstep, but it could keep similar criticism at bay as other world leaders head to Riyadh to offer condolences.

Obama's willingness to visit

Saudi Arabia, a country with ties to the terrorists behind the Sept. 11 attacks, could give critics a fresh reason to question why the president did not stand with Western allies in a symbolic show of defiance against violent extremism.

The schedule change meant that Obama, who arrived in New Delhi on Sunday morning local time, would skip a visit to the Taj Mahal, India's famed white marble monument of love.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Third person dies after shooting at Nebraska party

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Gunfire erupted during a crowded party in a vacant house in Omaha early Saturday, leaving three people dead and five wounded, and most witnesses refusing to help investigators, according to police. As many as 50 people were in and around the small home when shots were fired "by multiple shooters" around 2 a.m., Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said. No arrests have been made, and police said they were confident the shootings were gang-related. The vast majority of people at the scene refused to help police, the chief said during a news conference Saturday evening. He said he understood witnesses' fear but pleaded for them to come forward.

FBI: No bombs found on planes in Atlanta after threat

ATLANTA (AP)—Law enforcement officials found no bombs on two planes at Atlanta's main airport after authorities received what they considered credible threats, FBI spokesman Stephen Emmett said. The threats targeted Southwest Airlines Flight 2492, which arrived at Atlanta from Milwaukee, and Delta Air Lines Flight 1156, which arrived from Portland, Oregon, said Reese McCranie, a spokesman for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Both planes landed safely. The passengers were taken off the aircraft, and police bomb and K-9 teams examined both planes, authorities said.

Transgender teen's death stirs action in US and beyond

CINCINNATI (AP)—Leelah Alcorn wrote a note on her Tumblr blog, then walked through the night and into the path of a tractor-trailer rumbling down a highway. In the final message attributed to her, she pleaded: "My death needs to mean something. ... Fix society. Please." Although many details about her life and tragic end are still unclear, the transgender Ohio 17-year-old became, within days of her death Dec. 28, the new face of a growing movement of people hungering for acceptance. From the parking lot of her former suburban high school to London's Trafalgar Square, thousands have attended vigils in memory of the teenager named Joshua at birth. Tens of thousands have discussed her on social media or signed online petitions in support of transgender people



WINTER WEATHER

A jogger crosses a footbridge to the Esplanade in Boston, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015. Parts of the Northeast got their first real taste of winter on Saturday as a storm crawling up the coast left a slushy, snowy coating from Pennsylvania to New England, but forecasters are watching a possible second shot of snow that could affect the region early in the work week.

Alabama seeks to stay order overturning gay marriage ban

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The Alabama attorney general is asking a federal judge to stay a ruling that overturned Alabama's ban on gay marriage, as advocates cheer what once seemed an improbable victory in the deeply conservative state.

Attorney General Luther Strange's office asked a federal judge on Friday to put the ruling on hold since the U.S. Supreme Court plans to take up the issue of gay marriage this term, "resolving the issues on a nationwide basis."

U.S. District Judge Callie V.S. Granade on Friday said Alabama's ban was unconstitutional, ruling in favor of two Mobile women who sued to challenge Alabama's refusal to recognize

their 2008 marriage performed in California. The ruling is the latest in a string of wins in the South for advocates of gay marriage rights after judges struck down bans in the Carolinas, Florida, Mississippi and Virginia. The U.S. Supreme Court announced this month that it will take up the issue of whether gay couples have a fundamental right to marry and if states can ban such unions.

Alabama plaintiffs Cari Searcy and Kimberly McKeand have been a couple for more than 15 years and have a son together who was conceived with the help of a sperm donor. They filed a federal lawsuit after courts refused to let Searcy be recognized as the adoptive

parent of the boy because they were not spouses under Alabama law.

"We just want our son to have the same protections that every child in Alabama enjoys and now he can!" the couple said in a statement issued Saturday morning.

David Kennedy, a lawyer for the couple said, "Justice and equality are guaranteed to everyone and we are proud to know that is true in Alabama tonight."

The judge's decision Friday reverberated through the Deep South state where 81 percent of state voters in 2006 approved inserting a ban on gay marriage into the Alabama Constitution.

Police: Man shot his family, killing 3, then killed himself

NEW YORK (AP)—In the quiet of a pre-dawn Saturday on a dead-end street, a father came home and shot his family in their heads, leaving women in three generations dead and a wounded 12-year-old girl calling 911, police said.

"What I did, I cannot come back from," Jonathon Walker told his brother by phone soon afterward, police said. And Walker did not come back—police said he killed himself in his car on a desolate street a few miles away, ending a burst of violence that stunned relatives who said the family hadn't shown signs of trouble.

The 34-year-old security

guard had killed his 7-year-old daughter, Kayla Walker; his 31-year-old girlfriend, Shantai Hale; and Hale's mother, Viola Warren, 62. His and Hale's older daughter, whom a relative identified as Christina Walker, was hospitalized in stable condition, police said.

Investigators were trying to trace Walker's movements before the shooting as relatives struggled to comprehend shootings that struck them as inexplicable.

"I can't believe this happened. I can't believe this happened," Doreen Warren, the eldest victim's mother, sobbed by phone.

Asia

Abe 'speechless' after video claims IS hostage dead

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister said Sunday he was "speechless" after an on-line video purportedly showed that one of two Japanese hostages of the extremist Islamic State group had been killed, and he demanded the release of the other.

Shinzo Abe told Japanese broadcaster NHK that the video was likely authentic, though he said the government is still reviewing it. Abe offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna

Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer taken hostage in Syria last year.

He declined to comment on the message in the latest video, which demanded a prisoner exchange for the other hostage, journalist Kenji Goto. He said only that the government was still working on the situation, and reiterated that Japan condemns terrorism.

"I am left speechless," he said, stressing he wants Goto released unharmed. "We strongly and totally criticize such acts."

Yukawa's father, Shoichi, said he hoped "deep in his heart" that the news of his son's killing was not true.

"If I am ever reunited with him, I just want to give him a big hug," he told a small group of journalists invited into his house.

President Barack Obama condemned what he called "the brutal murder" of Yukawa, saying in a statement that the United



Abe

States stands by Japan and calling for Goto's release.

The Associated Press could not verify the contents of the message, which varied greatly from previous videos released by the Islamic State group, which now holds a third of both Syria and Iraq.

The Islamic State group had threatened on Tuesday to behead the men within 72 hours

unless it received a \$200 million ransom. Kyodo News agency reported that Saturday's video was emailed to Goto's wife.

Patrick Ventrell, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said U.S. intelligence officials were also working to confirm whether it was authentic.

Abe said after a Cabinet meeting late Saturday that the government of Japan will not succumb to terrorism and will continue to cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism.

Japanese diplomats left Syria as the civil war there escalated, compounding the difficulty of reaching the militants holding the hostages.

Abe spoke by phone with Jordanian King Abdullah II on Saturday, the state-run Petra news agency reported, without elaborating on what they discussed. He also called the two hostages' families.

Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, told NHK that in the purported message her son "seemed to be taking seriously what may be happening to him as well."

"I'm petrified," Ishido said. "He has children. I'm praying

he will return soon, and that's all I want."

But Ishido also was skeptical about the voice claiming to be Goto. "Kenji's English is very good. He should sound more fluent," she said.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the audio was still being studied, but there was no reason to deny the authenticity of the video.

One militant on the Islamic State-affiliated website warned that Saturday's new message was fake, while another said that the message was intended only to go to the Japanese journalist's family.

A third militant on the website noted that the video was not issued by al-Furqan, which is one of the media arms of the Islamic State group and has issued past videos involving hostages and beheadings. Saturday's message did not bear al-Furqan's logo.

The militants on the website post comments using pseudonyms, so their identities could not be independently confirmed by the AP. However, their confusion over the video matched that of Japanese officials and outside observers.

SIDEBAR

Father of Japanese hostage still hopeful



Shoichi Yukawa, center, father of Haruna Yukawa, one of two Japanese hostages held by the Islamic State group, speaks during an interview at his house in Chiba, near Tokyo Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

TOKYO (AP)—The father of the Japanese hostage purportedly shown in a video as having been killed by Islamic State militants is hoping against hope his son could still be alive.

"My mind went totally blank," Shoichi Yukawa told reporters Sunday, a day after

news broke of the video footage. "I am hoping deep in my heart that it is not true."

Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer, was taken hostage in Syria last year.

The Associated Press has not verified the contents of the video, which varied greatly from previous videos released

by the Islamic State group. It holds a third of both Syria and Iraq. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the video was likely authentic and demanded the militants release the other hostage, reporter Kenji Goto, 47.

The Islamic State group had threatened to behead Yukawa

and Goto unless it received a \$200 million ransom.

"If I am ever reunited with him, I just want to give him a big hug," Yukawa told Japanese TV stations. He requested his face not be shown.

He also apologized for the troubles his son had caused in Japan. Although Yukawa was kidnapped last year, he quickly faded from the Japanese media coverage, widely seen as going to a dangerous place at his own risk. However, the news he may have been killed amid a high stake diplomatic drama to save the two hostages has traumatized a nation accustomed to peaceful policies and relatively low crime.

The younger Yukawa had written on his blog and social networks about what appeared to be a troubled past that took him to the Middle East to join fighting. He said he went after his wife died of an illness.

A photo on his Facebook page shows him holding a Kalashnikov rifle somewhere in the Middle East. He also said that earlier he had suffered so much from a sense of failure that he became suicidal and tried to mutilate his genitals.

1st attempt to lift fuselage of crashed AirAsia plane fails

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian rescuers lifted the fuselage of the crashed AirAsia jetliner nearly to the water's surface before it sank to the ocean floor again when the lifting balloons deflated Saturday, a setback in the effort to recover more of the victims' remains.

Four bodies were discovered though around the area where dozens of divers were struggling with strong current and poor visibility to prepare to retrieve the 30-meter-long wreckage, said Suryadi Bambang Supriyadi, the operations chief at the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Divers reached the fuselage section for the first time on Friday and retrieved six bodies. A total of 69 bodies have now been recovered from AirAsia Flight 8501, which crashed Dec. 28 with 162 people on

board while flying from Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city, to Singapore.

Authorities believe many of the other bodies are still inside the fuselage.

"We now need additional balloons," Supriyadi said after Saturday's setback.

Supriyadi added that the cockpit was reported to be about 500 meters (yards) from the fuselage at a depth of 30 meters (100 feet) and the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot might be inside. "Divers would evacuate (them) if they are there," he said.

Media reports said Saturday the fuselage was lifted to about 7 meters (23 feet) from the surface before some of the balloons failed.

Some passengers' belongings such as biscuits, milk boxes, hair rollers and even an

iPhone with an attached earphone, as well as aircraft parts such as seat cushions and tables, floated out as the fuselage was being lifted, the Detik.com website reported.

Bad weather is a suspected

factor in the crash. Just before the flight disappeared, the pilots asked to climb to a higher altitude to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission by air traffic controllers because of heavy air traffic.



Crew members inspect bags containing bodies believed to be victims of AirAsia Flight 8501 on the deck of Indonesian Navy ship KRI Banda Aceh, on the Java Sea, Indonesia, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Blast in southern Philippine city kills 2, wounds 54

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful explosion killed at least two people and wounded 54 others in a southern Philippine port city that has been hit by similar blasts blamed on Muslim militants, police said Saturday. The blast occurred at a bar across the street from a busy bus terminal in Zamboanga city, damaged nearby establishments and hitting the victims with flying glass and debris. One officer was among the wounded, police said. Police suspected the militant Abu Sayyaf group, which operates in Zamboanga and nearby provinces, saying the attack could have been in retaliation for the foiled prison escape of a brother of one of the group's leaders. Earlier this week, army special forces killed at least three Abu Sayyaf gunmen in running gunbattles and have continued to pursue the militants in nearby Basilan province.

Truck bombing in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, wounds 2

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban truck bomb exploded in the Afghan capital Sunday, wounding two people in the first attack targeting Kabul in almost three weeks, officials said. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi suggested the blast, which happened just before 6 a.m. (0130 GMT, 8:30 p.m. EST) at a gas station near Kabul's military airport, might have been a premature suicide attack. The bombing wounded two civilians, Sediqqi said. Farid Afzeli, the head of the criminal investigation division of Kabul police, said that the truck was attempting to enter downtown Kabul when it blew up.

Officials scramble after massive power outage hits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A massive blackout struck Pakistan early Sunday, leaving as much as 80 percent of the country without electricity at its height as officials rushed to restore power. By mid-morning Sunday, officials said power had been restored to roughly half this country of 180 million people. A militant attack on a transmission tower in the southwestern Baluchistan province caused the blackout, said Zafaryab Khan, a spokesman for the Ministry of Water and Power. Khan said the attack caused a power surge that eventually affected about 80 percent of the country. Khan estimated that it would take another six to eight hours for the rest of the power to be restored to the system.

World

Rockets kill 30 in Ukrainian city as rebels launch offensive

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Indiscriminate rocket fire slammed into a market, schools, homes and shops Saturday in Ukraine’s southeastern city of Mariupol, killing at least 30 people, authorities said. The Ukrainian president called the blitz a terrorist attack and NATO and the U.S. demanded that Russia stop supporting the rebels. Ukrainian officials rushed to

defend the strategically important port on the Sea of Azov, beefing up military positions with more equipment and sending in more forces. The separatists’ top leader declared that an offensive against Mariupol had begun—then later toned down his threats as the scale of the civilian casualties became clear. President Petro Poroshenko held an emergency meeting of his military officials and cut short a trip to Saudi Arabia to coordinate the government’s response. “The time has come to name their sponsors. The help given to militants, weapons deliveries, equipment and the training of manpower—is this not aiding terrorism?” Poroshenko said in a recorded statement. Russia insists it does not support the rebels, but Western military officials say the sheer number of heavy weapons under rebel control belies that claim. An AP reporter saw convoys of pristine heavy weapons in rebel territory earlier this week. The rocket attacks came a day after the rebels rejected a peace deal and announced they were going on a multi-prong offensive against the government in Kiev to vastly increase their territory. The rebel stance has upended European attempts to mediate an end to the fighting in eastern Ukraine, which the U.N. says has killed nearly 5,100 people since April. Mariupol, a major city under government control, lies between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula. Heavy fighting in the region in the fall raised fears that Russian-backed separatist forces would try to capture city to establish a land link between Russia and Crimea.

Dignitaries head to Saudi Arabia after King Abdullah’s death

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—World leaders and top dignitaries began arriving in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to give their condolences following the death of King Abdullah, who died early Friday at age 90 after nearly two decades at the helm. Despite deep tensions and rivalries between the nations, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was among the first to arrive to the Sunni-ruled kingdom on Saturday where he was greeted at the airport by the late king’s son, Prince Turki, who is governor of Riyadh. Saudi state TV showed Zarif walking with the prince down a red carpet on the tarmac. The newly enthroned King Salman is also expected to receive in the coming days U.S. President Barack Obama, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, Japan’s Crown Prince Naruhito, Spain’s King Felipe VI, Jordan’s King Abdullah, Denmark’s Crown Prince Frederik, Dutch King Willem-Alexander, and the United Kingdom’s Prince Charles. Morocco’s Prince Moulay Rachid will pay his respects on the behalf of his brother King Mohammed VI. Talk of Zarif visiting Saudi Arabia last year quickly dissipated after Iran protested comments made by Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal in which he called on Tehran to withdraw its “occupying forces” from Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Iran insists it has no combat forces on the ground in any of the three countries, though it says it has sent senior commanders as advisers to Syria and Iraq. The diplomatic squabble, in many ways, exemplified how Abdullah’s most pressing priority was to confront the Shiite powerhouse across the Gulf. The multiple conflicts across the region deepened Sunni-Shiite hatreds and fueled militancy during his reign.

King Abdullah’s successor, King Salman

King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud is newly enthroned as King of Saudi Arabia on the death of his half-brother, King Abdullah. He was governor of Riyadh province for 48 years before becoming defense minister in 2011.

- Born on Dec. 31, 1935
- One of the so-called “Sudeiri Seven” — seven sons born to one of his father’s most favored wives, Hussa bint Ahmad Sudeiri. The seven brothers have been seen as a center of power within the family.
- Appointed defense minister upon death of his brother Crown Prince Sultan
- Owns important stake in one of the Arab world’s largest media groups




King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud

Source: Photo, Abaca Press/TNS, BBC, AP
Graphic: Greg Good, TNS



Two dead bodies lay on the ground in a residential area in Mariupol, Ukraine, an OSCE member in the background right, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015.



In Celebration of his New Life

† Jesus Quitugua Deleon Guerrero

January 10, 1941 – January 20, 2015

In his New Life, he is welcomed by our Savior and all the Angels and Saints together with his loved ones:

Mother: †Nicolas Diaz Quitugua DLGuerrero
Father: †Juan Reyes DLGuerrero
Son: †Edwin Camacho DLGuerrero
Brothers: †Gregorio Quitugua DLGuerrero, †Juan Quitugua DLGuerrero, †Gregorio M. Quitugua
Reared Brother: †Catherine Agulto DLGuerrero
Daughter in law: †Luis T. Castro, †Isaias Maratita, †Jose Cabrera
Brothers in law: †Antonia P. DLGuerrero
Sisters in law:

His memory and peaceful spirit will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Wilhelma Juana Camacho Deleon Guerrero
Children: **Charlotte** and Michael Camacho (Brandon and Hoseki [Axl Rose], William, Bradley, Elizabeth) Norvin and Paula DLGuerrero (Jordyn, Jenna, and Alaina) Zeno and Tina DLGuerrero (Crystal and Gus [Ierlyma, Pumai], Francisco and Stevie [Ariana], Tasha, Zeno Jr., Bella) Donyale DLGuerrero and James (Leland, Zion)

Brothers and Sisters and in laws: Jose Q. DLGuerrero and family, Herman and Lucia DLGuerero and family, Ines DLGuerrero and family, Jaime and Maria DLG. Sasamoto and family, Pedro and Gee DLGuerrero and family, Francisco and Barbara DLGuerrero and family, Margaret DLG. Castro and family, and reared sister in law, Luisa B. Quitugua

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Masses are being offered daily at 6am and nightly rosary at 7pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Thursday, January 29, 2015, our beloved’s remains will be escorted from CHC at 7:30AM to Mouont Carmel Cathedral. Viewing and last respects will be from 8:00am to 10:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed immediately by Interment Services at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase

Wilhelma (Juanita) C. DLGuerrero, children and family

Health & Fitness

Tide turning in Ebola fight after hard lessons

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—A top U.N. official in the fight against Ebola greeted just three patients at one treatment center he visited this week in Sierra Leone. Families in Liberia are no longer required to cremate the remains of loved ones to halt the spread of the virulent disease. And in the streets of Guinea's capital, it is rare to see the formerly ubiquitous plastic buckets of bleach and water for hand washing.

Ten months after it dawned on health officials that they were facing an unprecedented Ebola outbreak in West Africa, experts and officials agree the tide is turning, although previous lulls have proved short-lived.

There is still no vaccine or licensed treatment, nor is it clear whether the international community has actually learned any lessons from an epidemic that killed at least 8,675 people.

"Things have changed drastically for the better—no one can deny that," said Aitor Sanchez Lacomba, Liberia country director for the International Rescue Committee. "How can we make sure that we don't have these kinds of situations in the future?"

Ebola report

NUMBER OF EBOLA CASES AND DEATHS as of Jan. 21

Country		Probable/suspected	Confirmed	Total of confirmed and probable/suspected
Guinea	Cases	332	2,539	1,876 deaths
	Deaths	319	1,557	2,871 cases
Liberia	Cases	5,343	3,135	3,605 deaths
	Deaths	*	*	8,478 cases
Sierra Leone	Cases	2,437	7,903	3,145 deaths
	Deaths	366	2,779	10,340 cases
Mali	Cases	1	7	6 deaths
	Deaths	1	5	8 cases
U.S.	Cases	0	4	1 death
	Deaths	0	1	4 cases
U.K.	Cases	0	1	
	Deaths	0	0	1 case

Total cases since start of outbreak: 21,724** Total deaths since start of outbreak: 8,641**

** Total includes cases and deaths in countries that have since been cleared of Ebola. (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain)

Source: World Health Organization

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Personal Trainer

Fixing a flat bicycle tire

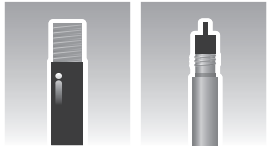
Being able to fix a flat bike tire is as liberating a skill as learning how to ride the bike in the first place.

Must-have equipment

- Spare tube that fits your tires

- Pump that fits tube's valve

Two types of valves



Schrader

Like a car's

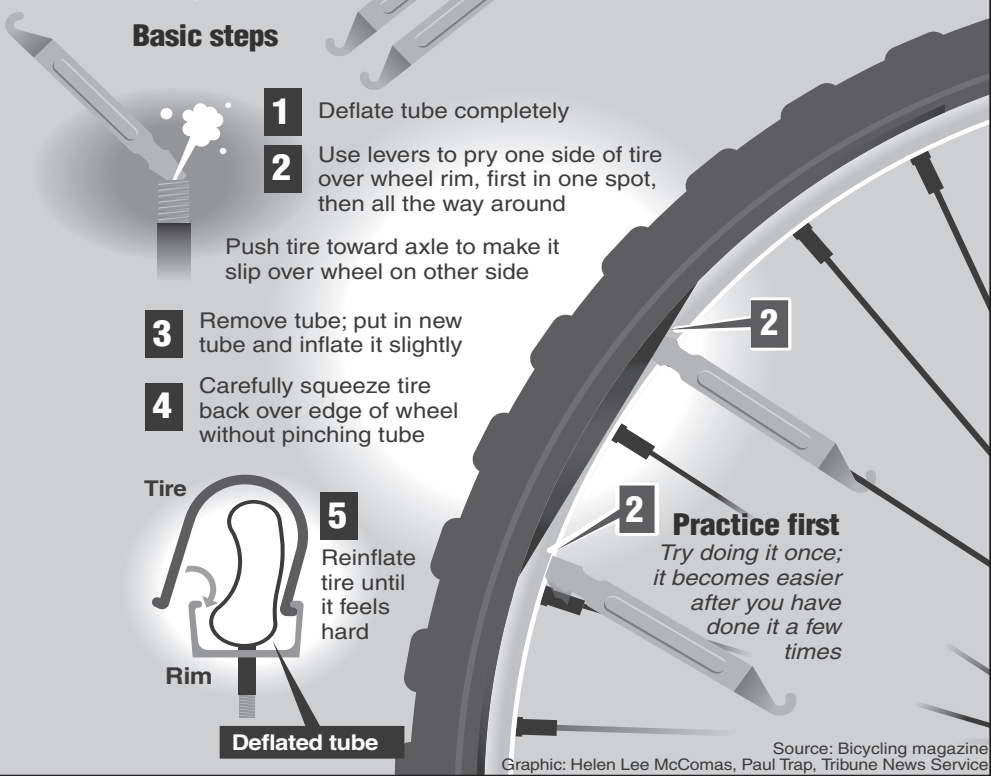
Presta

Thinner

- Two plastic or metal tire levers



Basic steps



In Loving Memory

Juan Cruz Aguon

We, the family of the late Juan Cruz Aguon, would like to invite all our families, friends and relatives to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.



Daily mass is offered at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church, beginning Monday, January 26, 2015 through Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

We are sincerely grateful for your presence and support.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Children & Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the Late †**Francisco Babauta Castro**

wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to all our families, relatives, and friends. Your thoughtfulness and support in expressing your sympathy, condolences, and prayers have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow of our loss.

We are respectfully extending a special thanks and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Dr. Aldan and the CHCC Staff for their untiring and professional support.

Your presence with us at the daily Mass, Holy Rosary and during the Mass of Christian Burial has given us strength to carry on each day. We are very grateful to all of you. Your kindness and love will be cherished and remembered.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank you

Terry B. Castro and Children

Life & Style

Doomsday approaching? Clock ticking closer to midnight

By DOYLE RICE
USA TODAY

Citing unchecked climate change and the ongoing threat of nuclear weapons, scientists

Thursday moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock two minutes closer to midnight.

"It is now three minutes to midnight," said Kennette Benedict, the executive director and

publisher of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists at a news conference in Washington, D.C. "The probability of global catastrophe is very high. This is about the end of civilization as

we know it."

Three minutes is the closest to midnight the clock has been since 1984 during the Cold War. The closest it has ever been to midnight -- two minutes-- was

in 1953, when the hydrogen bomb was first tested. The clock is symbolic and has been maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since 1947. The group was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first nuclear weapons in the Manhattan Project.

"In 2015, unchecked climate change, global nuclear weapons modernizations and outsized nuclear weapons arsenals pose extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity," the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said in a statement.

"World leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe. These fail-

ures of political leadership endanger every person on Earth."

The clock is symbolic and has been maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since 1947. The group was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first nuclear weapons in the Manhattan Project.

The scientists created the clock in 1947 using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero), to convey threats to humanity and the Earth.

Al Pacino looks to diversify, not retire from acting

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Pacino says he can relate to Simon Axler, the lead character in his film 'The Humbling'—about an aging actor who worries he's lost his craft and his appetite for acting.

That's partly why he made the film. "I thought I had a better chance of making a movie that was effective because it was about a world I understood," the Oscar-winning actor said in a recent interview to promote the film.

Adapted from Philip Roth's 2009 novel, "The Humbling" was directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barry Levinson ("Rain Man") and co-stars Golden Globe nominee Greta Gerwig

("Frances Ha").

At 74, Pacino says that at times he feels his age. "I do feel differently. I don't quite get up from this table the same way. I may want to but I don't."

Yet the actor says the similarities end there. Simon may be ready to give up acting but Pacino is not.

"Acting, especially if you've done it as long as I have," he said, "it becomes such a part of your nature you rarely ever think about quitting or anything like that."

The star of such iconic films as "The Godfather" trilogy and "Scent of a Woman," which

won him his 1992 best actor Oscar, says he's convinced there's another big role ahead of him, but adding, "I don't know if it's going to be in movies. ... Acting, it can take on different forms."

Pacino was scheduled to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra this weekend, doing Shakespeare and personal readings. "That's a variation on a thing that takes acting and it's a little different," he explained.

Pacino will return to Broadway this fall to appear in David Mamet's latest work "China Doll," even if he won't do the standard eight performances a

week. "I wouldn't do eight performances if you paid me," he said. "It's too much. I gave that up a long time ago."

Television remains in Pacino's acting future, as well.

The two-time Emmy winner ("You Don't Know Jack," "Angels in America") says he's looking into an episodic series that could stream on a service like Netflix or Amazon about Napoleon's final days on the Island of Saint Helena.

"I always found it was really interesting the last days, the last months of his life," said Pacino. While he's been offered a lot of different scripts, he said he's "never found the right vehicle" until he recently read "one of those series types."



Pacino

Experts examine bones as Spain hunts for Cervantes' remains



A team of archaeologists and anthropologists take notes after starting the excavation work after identifying three unrecorded and unidentified graves in the chapel's crypt of the closed order Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid's historic Barrio de las Letras, or Literary Quarter, Spain, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015.

MADRID (AP)—Forensic experts began excavating graves and examining bones Saturday in a tiny chapel in Madrid, hoping to solve the centuries-old mystery of exactly where the great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes was laid to rest.

The author of "Don Quixote" was buried in 1616 at the Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid's historic Barrio de las Letras, or Literary Quarter,

but the exact whereabouts of his grave within the convent chapel are unknown.

A team of archaeologists and anthropologists decided to start excavations at the site after identifying what they believe are three unrecorded and unidentified graves in the chapel's crypt.

Cervantes is a towering figure in Spanish culture. His novel—"The Adventures of the Ingenious Nobleman Don

Quixote of La Mancha"—changed Spanish literature. His wife, Catalina Salazar, was also buried at the convent, although the location of her grave also remains a mystery.

On Saturday, the chapel crypt had the air of a modern forensic laboratory transported to a medieval location, with more than 20 experts at work with white lights under a vaulted ceiling.

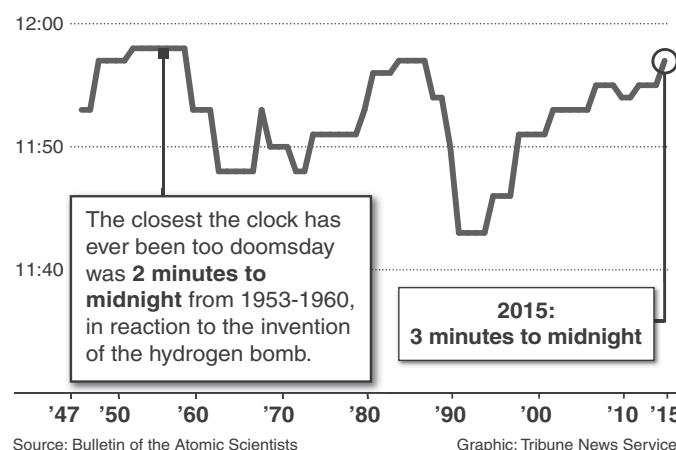
By midmorning, some experts

were examining bones that had been extracted from a niche and carefully laid out on a table. Another group of five white-clad experts painstakingly opened a grave beneath the whitewashed crypt's old terracotta tiled floor.

Close to the crypt's entrance, two scientists studied images obtained from within another wall niche by using an endoscope camera carefully inserted through a tiny hole.

Doomsday Clock

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists maintains a metaphorical Doomsday Clock, with midnight representing global catastrophe by nuclear weapons or climate change. The clock was recently pushed forward to 3 minutes to midnight.



Hathaway: "It's not like the world has gotten nicer"

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anne Hathaway was not supposed to star in "Song One," an indie musical about a disconnected 20-something in a crisis who finds herself in folk music.

One year after its Sundance Film Festival premiere, the actress laughed about the awkwardness of having to ask her director to be in the film, which is now playing in select theaters and on video-on-demand.

First time director Kate Barker-Froyland, who got to know Hathaway when she served as an assistant to the director on "The Devil Wears Prada," had approached the actress and her then-boyfriend Adam Shulman about coming on as producers.

Then Hathaway read the script and realized she had fallen for the lead character Franny, a Ph.D. candidate living abroad who is forced to return home when she discovers her brother is in a coma. "I'm a sucker for movies about second chances," she said on a recent afternoon in Beverly Hills. "I'm also a big believer of finding the opportunity

within a crisis. This character got to do both of those things."

Originally written for a 24-year-old, the last thing Hathaway wanted to do was put her friend and director in the uncomfortable position of having to turn her down. But she did, and Barker-Froyland thought about it and agreed to make the character a little older for Hathaway.

"I've got to say, I think the character works better being 28 as she is in the movie. I think there's something sadder about her in the beginning. She's someone who has reached that point in her life being so remote and closed off," said Hathaway.

In addition to working with a first time director, Hathaway was checking off a first of her own: Producing. She doesn't view it as a way to control her career, per se, but more so to create opportunities and take risks.

"It would be so great if there were just this magic land full of amazing parts for women. There are so many more incredible actresses than there are incredible parts," she said.



Hathaway

New doc dedicated to Robin Williams explores comedy, misery

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Does the best comedy come from pain? And does that mean comedians are the most miserable people of all?

That's what comic Kevin Pollack wanted to discover in his documentary, "Misery Loves Comedy," which premiered Friday at the Sundance Film Festival. He dedicated the film "in loving memory and gratitude" to his friend and mentor, Robin Williams, whose suicide last year came just as Pollack was finishing the project.

Williams does not appear in the film, though Pollack said he was "quite desperate and interested" to participate. But the long hours Williams worked on his TV series "The Crazy Ones" prevented him from joining the cast.

Pollack interviewed more than 60 comics, actors and funny folks to find out if com-

edy requires misery, and found the answer to be both yes and no.

"I just think you're funnier when you're miserable," said Jimmy Fallon.

"I think you have to at least know misery," Matthew Perry said.

Comic Amy Schumer said that, of her friends, those who are the funniest are also the most miserable.

Said Lewis Black: "In order to become a comic, you have to love watching yourself die."

Even two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks said he spent "54 and A½ years of living in self-loathing."

The pain of life isn't limited to comics and performers, Pollack said.

"Everyone has suffered through misery," he said. "It is the human condition. And the performer or the writer or the filmmaker or the actor must

figure out a way to articulate it in a way that makes it either relatable or universal."

Tribeca Film announced

Friday that it acquired "Misery Loves Comedy" for distri-

bution and plans to release it theatrically in the spring.

Nikki Reed coy about love for Somerhalder, but not animals

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Nikki Reed was coy when asked about her rumored engagement to actor Ian Somerhalder, saying only, "Life is really great right now and I'm so excited for the future." But she was effusive about her love for animals.

The entertainer came to Sundance on Saturday to host the third annual Catdance Film Festival, a celebration of cats on screen that benefits the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Reed says she's been an animal advocate since she was a kid.

"I learned how to change a cloth diaper on a raccoon," she said. "I was maybe 8 or 9."

Her mom let her bring home "any and every thing that needed love or needed food," including, for a brief time, a coyote.

Now Reed has nine pets of her own—two horses, four dogs and three cats—and provides foster care for countless other cats and dogs. She has taken in so many homeless animals that her mother recently moved in to help her care for all the critters.

AP

Nikki Reed poses for a portrait to promote the "Catdance Film Festival" at the Eddie Bauer Adventure House during the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015, in Park City, Utah.



Israeli man under house arrest for leaked Madonna songs

DANIEL ESTRIN
BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM (AP)—An aspiring singer who auditioned for Israel's top TV song competition was placed under house arrest Thursday on suspicion of hacking into international pop star Madonna's computer and stealing and selling unreleased songs, his lawyer said.

Police said Israel's cybercrime unit arrested 38-year-old Adi Lederman on Wednesday after an investigation coordinated with the FBI, which confirmed its involvement. Police also accused Lederman of stealing songs from other international artists whom they declined to name.

Songs from Madonna's upcoming album "Rebel Heart," to be released in March, were

leaked online in December. At the time, she urged her fans not to listen to the stolen copies that had surfaced, writing on Instagram: "I have been violated as a human and an artist." She later released six songs, calling it an "early Christmas gift" for fans.

Madonna welcomed Lederman's initial arrest, writing on her Facebook page that she was "profoundly grateful to the

FBI, the Israeli Police investigators and anyone else who helped lead to the arrest of this hacker." She called the hack "deeply devastating."

Madonna has long claimed a special bond with Israel. The diva has made personal pilgrimages to the country, she practices Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism, and she launched her 2012 "MDNA" tour in Israel.

Lock of Lincoln's hair among items auctioned in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—A collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia that includes a lock of the slain president's hair has been sold for more than \$800,000 at auction Saturday in Dallas.

The Donald P. Dow collection brought top bids totaling \$803,889, doubling expectations, said Eric Bradley, spokesman for Dallas-based Heritage Auctions.

Greg Dow said his father, who died five years ago, was fascinated with presidential assassinations.

The lock of hair, taken by Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes shortly after Lincoln

was shot by John Wilkes Booth, sold for \$25,000.

An 1861 letter written by Booth to a friend boasting about his career and value as an actor sold for \$30,000.

"The public was so disgusted by Booth's atrocity that most all letters, signatures and documents mentioning him were destroyed after Lincoln's death, making any that survive 150 years later exceedingly rare and valuable," said Don Ackerman, Consignment Director for Historical Americana at Heritage Auctions.

"The Dow Collection gave us a unique perspective of the assas-

sination and I doubt we'll ever see a grouping like this outside of a museum setting."

Other items auctioned Saturday included:

- a clipping of linen from Lincoln's death bed and stained with Lincoln's blood, for \$6,000.

- an 1864 letter signed by Lincoln and authorizing prisoner-of-war swap involving Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's son from a Union POW camp, for \$27,500.

- A display of photographs and autographs from Lincoln, Booth and Boston Corbett, the

soldier who shot and killed Booth—a set nicknamed "The Martyr, The Assassin and The Avenger"—which sold for \$30,000.

- a set of four oil paintings created for a carnival side show displaying the mummified remains of a man claimed to be Booth, for \$30,000.

- Booth's military arrest warrant, for \$21,250.

- a framed White House Funeral Admittance Card, for \$11,875.

- a letter signed by Mary Todd Lincoln on her personal mourning stationery, for \$10,625.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Birdman' wins Producers Guild's top trophy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Birdman" received a welcome lift on its flight to the Oscars after winning the Producers Guild of America's highest film award Saturday night at a ceremony in Los Angeles. The win delivers needed momentum to Alejandro Inarritu's showbiz romp following its upset loss to "The Grand Budapest Hotel" in the Golden Globes' comedy category earlier this month. Many of the PGA's 6,700 members are also Oscar voters and for the past seven years, the guild's choices for its top trophy went on to win the best-picture prize at the Academy Awards. Other trophies presented Saturday night included "The Lego Movie" for animated feature, "Life Itself" for documentary film, " Fargo" for television movie or miniseries, "Breaking Bad" for TV drama series, "Orange is the New Black" for TV comedy series.

'7th Heaven' actor Stephen Collins' divorce finalized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has finalized the divorce of veteran television actor Stephen Collins and his wife of nearly 30 years. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael J. Convey signed the pair's judgment during a brief hearing Friday. The pair's divorce gained notoriety after Collins' estranged wife Faye Grant disclosed the actor had inappropriate contact with underage girls in court filings. Audio that Grant recorded of a therapy session with Collins in 2012 in which he acknowledged molesting three girls was posted on celebrity website TMZ last year. Collins, who starred on the series "7th Heaven," lost several roles as a result of the audio's release.

Shoeless dad wants slippers inside his daughters' homes

DEAR ABBY: We have a couple of daughters who have told us we must take off our shoes if we visit them (and our beautiful grandchildren). Although I'm not sure of their reasons for this, I do know for sure that we have never tracked any kind of dirt into their house when we visited. In fact, our shoes are always clean.

I have very sensitive feet. I cannot even walk outside barefoot. On top of that, my feet get cold if they aren't covered. I have always worn house slippers at home if I didn't have shoes on.

In a discussion with my wife, I suggested that their request was both inconsiderate and disrespectful. I also said they should provide alternatives to shoes for visitors if they expect guests to remove their shoes. What is the proper etiquette in a situation like this?

COLD FEET IN IOWA

DEAR COLD FEET: A person does not have to track "dirt" into a house to carry germs on the soles of one's shoes. If guests have walked on a sidewalk or driveway where someone has walked a dog or spat, then I can see why a parent might want shoes removed if children play on the floor.

Good manners in a case like this would be to cheerfully cooperate with your hosts and, if slippers are not provided, to

bring a pair over that you can leave for the next time you visit. It's a small price to pay for spending time with your beautiful grandchildren.

DEAR ABBY: We have a 27-year-old nephew who lives at home with his parents. He is a good guy, but he doesn't drive. He has no physical or mental impairments that we are aware of, and all of his numerous family members have offered to teach him. But his nonchalant attitude toward learning has made everyone give up.

We live in a big city with poor public transportation, and his job is far from home. Catching the bus to work is unsafe and takes hours, and daily cab fare isn't cost effective. We know his parents aren't happy transporting him back and forth, and we think they need to push him toward more independence. His social life is limited to family events, and dating is out of the question.

We worry about what will happen as his parents are getting older, and none of us plan on assuming the responsibility of transporting him. Any suggestions?

CONCERNED AUNT IN FLORIDA

DEAR CONCERNED AUNT: How do you know the par-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ents aren't happy about transporting him? Have they said it? If so, the next time they vent, tell them you're concerned about their son and why. He may have additional problems that you are unaware of. He may simply be a late bloomer or have no incentive to be independent because his parents are happy with him snug in their nest.

However, if this is the elephant in the room that no one—including the parents—wants to acknowledge, keep mum because if you don't, you will be resented for it.

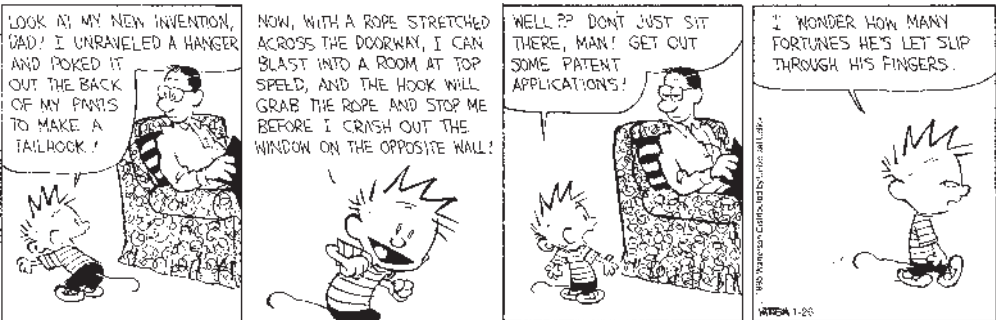
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

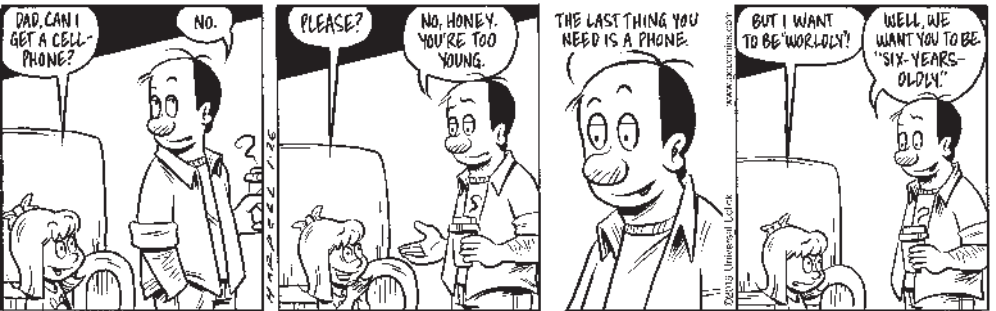
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Zero 44 Plumbing 45 Jet forth 46 Entourage 47 Track circuit 48 To — it may concern 49 Mommy Kissing Santa Claus 50 Single Rani's wrap 51 Prescription, for short 52 Perce tribe 53 Gibson or Brooks 54 "Help!" 55 Ginormous 56 Frilly fabric 57 Keynes subj. 58 Fender bender 59 George Herman Ruth 60 Ox of cross-words 61 Arctic sight 62 "the season ..." 63 French refusal 64 Witness bark 65 Claw 66 Welles role 67 Counterfeit 68 Aching 69 Jannings of old movies 70 Muppet creator 71 Henson 72 Work with 73 Papa 74 Dispensed candy

DOWN 1 Tree fluid 2 Pouch 3 "Take — Train" 4 Get ready, for short 5 Devoured 6 Tough 7 Beige 8 Actress Gretchen 9 Deli loaves 10 Egg-beating tool 11 Mexican money 12 Bawl 13 Tackled 14 Tenpins 15 Watch the youngsters 16 Gap 17 From the start 18 Card player's call 19 PC picture 20 Becker of tennis 21 "Green" (1973 movie) 22 Infant in an aerie

Solution time: 26 mins.

Friday's answer 1-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Rue, 36; Ellen DeGeneres, 57; Eddie Van Halen, 60; Lucinda Williams, 62.

Happy Birthday: You are ready to take action and bring about the changes that will lead to a better standard of living or a higher profile. Much can be accomplished if you work as a team player and try to be an attentive partner. The sky is the limit if you stick to the truth and strive to reach your goals. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 27, 32, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Secretive actions will bring the highest and most unusual rewards. Volunteer work will give you greater insight into what you want to do in the future. Romance is on the rise, and sharing ideas and plans will bring about better personal living conditions. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to find unique ways to overcome difficult situations will put you in a good position. Try not to take on too much or you will suffer from exhaustion, defeating your attempts to complete what you start. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use past experiences to get ahead now. Don't trust anyone to do as good a job as you when it comes to taking care of your responsibilities. Romance will bring about a positive change in your living arrangements. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do something you've never done before. Express your thoughts to someone you want to form a partnership with. Colleagues you have worked with in the past will have something

unique to offer you. A business trip looks promising. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a short trip or gather information about someone you want to get to know better. Re-evaluate your current situation and set up goals for the upcoming year. Your heart will rule your head, so don't act too impulsively. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will arise regarding a partnership that you have lost faith in. Talk matters through until you come up with a workable solution. Letting the situation fester will cause undue stress. Take control and make a practical decision. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When it comes to your professional goals, don't confide in anyone. Someone will twist your words or use the information you share against you. Concentrate on having fun, networking and sizing up what everyone else plans to do. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Creative ventures and using your imagination to get things done will ease stress. A change in the way you feel about someone is likely to develop. Consider whether you want to walk away or make a commitment. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look for the positives. Do your best to display honesty, but don't expect others to do the same. Prepare to redirect your goals if you feel you need to make changes in order to improve your professional life. *****

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refuse to let anyone coerce you into something you don't want to do. Emotional pressure will be applied, leaving you in an awkward position. Strive to do the best job possible or check out new professional opportunities. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Size up all the changes you want to implement, and get the ball rolling. A partnership or work-related opportunity will lead to new beginnings and a chance to raise your standard of living. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An energy boost will help you get things done as long as you don't engage in a disagreement. Don't waste your time trying to convince others to follow you. Do your own thing and present your work only when you are ready. ***

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, independent and adaptable. You are outgoing and popular.

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SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★ 1/26

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHIROPODISTS AND PODIATRISTS Solution: 9 letters

NTBASESORTHOTIC
OOLNNLPCHJWPLEH
EELIARKOEINOARCH
GNSTONRLIEUEIXN
RATOCATKAINNNIM
UIEMPUSRNCDCATU
SLRYECRSENIIRERS
ESSHIDOTEAPDSAC
REDNOLIUSSTEEUL
ULIESRCTNUSMTME
TLLSEOPNIUOMEAA
CIEOMTILNRCENN
AHAAFLLELTEEMENT
RCSIPTAEWARTSRT
FAESKCAFTLEEY

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Achilles, Anatomy, Ankle, Arch, Assessment, Back, Blisters, Calluses, Clean, Clinic, Corns, Diet, Disease, Feet, Fractures, Heal, Help, Hospital, Insoles, Joints, Medical, Medicine, Muscle, Neuroma, Orthotic, Pain, Reconstruction, Science, Skin, Soft, Splints, Sports, Sprain, Surgeon, Therapy, Toenails, Trauma, Treatment, Warts, Wound

Last Friday's Answer: Aperiitifs

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Patriots coach dares NFL to prove him wrong

NEW ENGLAND (AP)—Patriots coach Bill Belichick decided to call a surprise news conference on Saturday to let everyone know that he feels his team did nothing wrong.

He was defiant and frustrated over the entire deflate-gate controversy, in which the Patriots were accused of deflating footballs during the AFC championship game. So in this news conference he described in excruciating detail the experiments the Patriots have done to footballs to determine what happened. And he is convinced that the Patriots did nothing wrong.

"I believe now, 100 percent, that I have personally and we as an organization that we have followed every rule to the letter," Belichick said. "I feel on behalf of everyone in the organization — everyone that is involved in this organization — that we need to say something."

Belichick reiterated his thoughts from Thursday, in which he said he knew nothing of the preparation of footballs or the air pressure of them. So, as we'd expect from Belichick, he threw himself into the subject to figure it out.

What Belichick told the media was that the Patriots replicated the process that footballs go through on game day. And the explanation for how the balls became under-inflated was two-fold: The pregame preparation process to rub the balls down inflate the pounds per square inch (PSI) and so does the change in weather.

First, he discussed the preparation before the officials in-



New England Patriots football head coach Bill Belichick speaks during an NFL football news conference at Gillette Stadium, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015, in Foxborough, Mass., where he defended the way his team preps its game balls. (AP PHOTO/STEVEN SENNE)

spect them two hours and 15 minutes before the game. The Patriots rub the balls to get the texture correct for the quarterbacks, and Tom Brady in particular. Many quarterbacks have described the process of breaking the balls in. That's common in the NFL. Quarterbacks hate slick footballs. Belichick said that rubbing process changes air in the football and the PSI. He said they never did that in a heated room or in front of the heater. It just happens.

"We rub it to get the ball to the proper texture," Belichick

said. "I don't know what's vigorous, what's not vigorous, we're not polishing fine china here. We're trying to get a football to the proper texture that the quarterbacks want it to grip it. Does that stimulate something within the football to raise the PSI? I would say yes, it does."

The other part is the weather. The temperature outside was colder than it was in the locker room. It was 51 degrees at kickoff. Belichick compared the change in the air pressure due to the weather to parking your car

outside overnight in the cold, and that changing the air pressure in your tires. He suggested that also changed the air pressure in the footballs.

He also experimented with the quarterbacks. He said they had a tough time differentiating between under-inflated footballs and ones that were within the NFL rules of 12.5 to 13.5 pounds per square inch.

"We had our quarterbacks look at a number of footballs," Belichick said. "And they were unable to differentiate a 1 pound per square inch difference

in those footballs. They were unable to do it. On a 2-pound differential there was some degree of differentiation but not a consistent one. A couple ones they could pick out, but they were also wrong on some

of those other ones. So, you're welcome to do that yourself."

Belichick sounded frustrated about the whole thing (he said at no point did the Patriots compromise the integrity of the game, and even passionately answered the follow-up questions about Spygate years ago), and rightfully so. This controversy has come during an important week as the Patriots prepare for a Super Bowl against the Seattle Seahawks, and during a week in which the team should be reveling in its accomplishment of winning the AFC. If Belichick's experiments are accurate and correct, then he has spent a lot of time this week dealing with a made-up controversy.

"I'm embarrassed to talk about the amount of time that I've put into this relative to the other important challenge in front of us," Belichick said. "I'm not a scientist, I'm not an expert in footballs, I'm not an expert in football measurements, I'm just telling you what I know."

Belichick called the impromptu news conference to discuss deflate-gate in full and exhaust the topic from his end because he seemingly doesn't plan to discuss it again before the Super Bowl.

"This is the end of this subject for me for a long time," Belichick said.

'MLB could expand internationally'

NEW YORK (AP)—Bud Selig began his 8,173rd and final day in charge of baseball by waking up in a Manhattan hotel, having breakfast and working out. After nearly 22 1/2 years that began with unprecedented labor unrest, unfolded with rapid innovation and ended with unparalleled prosperity, he predicted a future filled with more transformation, perhaps with expansion to other countries.

"My dream is for this sport to really have an international flavor," he said Saturday during a half-hour interview with The Associated Press. "Does it need teams in other countries? ... If one uses a lot of vision it could."

Selig headed the group that forced Commissioner Fay Vincent's resignation in September 1992. Owner of the Milwaukee Brewers since 1970, he was put in charge as chairman of the executive council and finally elected commissioner in July 1998 after years of saying he would never take the job.

His reign saw expanded playoffs and wild-card teams, inter-league play, video review to aid umpires, expansion to Arizona and Tampa Bay, the formation of baseball's Internet and broadcast companies and the start of drug testing - too late for some critics. The only person who headed baseball longer was Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the first com-

missioner from 1920-44.

"Bud will go down in history as the No. 1 commissioner that has served baseball, and without question," said Peter Ueberroth, baseball's commissioner from 1984-89. For Ueberroth, Selig's time heading baseball can be compared only with "what Pete Rozelle has done in football and David Stern has done in basketball."

Selig's final task was to accept a long and meritorious service award from the New York chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America at a black-tie dinner Saturday night. Now 80, Selig becomes commissioner emeritus Sunday when Rob Manfred, his top deputy, takes over as the 10th commissioner.

"It's been quite a journey, and the journey I think has changed me in a lot of ways," Selig said. "I wish I knew in 1992 what I knew today."

Revenue has risen from about \$1.7 billion in '92 to just under \$9 billion last year. Attendance, which averaged 26,978 in 1992, has been above 30,000 in 10 straight seasons, peaking at 32,785 in 2007 before the Great Recession.

With the start of revenue sharing and a luxury tax that has slowed spending by large-market teams, every club except Toronto has made playoffs this century.

Selig emphasized consensus over confrontation.

SIDE BAR

Could Super Bowl be Lynch's finale in Seattle?

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—For all the importance placed around finding the right quarterback, the trade that brought Marshawn Lynch to Seattle part way through the 2010 season could be considered the most important transaction Pete Carroll made in the makeover of the Seahawks.

Lynch brought more than just skills as a running back. Lynch provided the Seahawks an attitude that spread through the locker room.

"I kind of love his act," Seattle general manager John Schneider said.

All that Lynch has provided the Seahawks makes it seem unfathomable that next Sunday's Super Bowl against New England could be his finale in Seattle.

No more showers of Skittles. No more Beast Mode moments. No more cat-and-mouse game avoiding the media.

Both the Seahawks and Lynch have decisions to make in the offseason. Whether it's time for Lynch to move on or

if he'll play out the final year of his contract with Seattle.

If Lynch returns under his current contract, it would cost Seattle \$8.5 million against the salary cap, a number that would be unusual for a to-be 29-year-old running back.

Seattle could attempt to restructure or extend Lynch's contract to take less of a hit against its salary cap. They could decide it's time for backups Robert Turbin and Christine Michael to get their opportunities as Seattle's featured running backs.

Or Lynch could follow through on rumors that have followed him for nearly a year and decide to walk away from football.

Only one of those options is particularly pleasing to Seahawks fans and that's seeing Lynch continue. They've come to revel in the toughness and fight and refuse-to-be-tackled style with which Lynch runs. "Beast Mode" is an attitude Seattle has never had on the football field.

"He's a dog. His whole demeanor," Seattle safety Earl Thomas said. "He's a man (among) boys out there."

A case could be made that 2014 was Lynch's best season of his career and it started under an umbrella of speculation about his role.

Seattle coaches hinted in the offseason that backs such as Turbin and Michael could have more of a role in the offense and training camp began with Lynch holding out for the first week.

But once Lynch got on the field, his importance became clear. He rushed for more yards two seasons ago, but this season was a display of how Lynch has become more than just a ball carrier.

"It's been an extraordinary season that he's put out here because he's been so consistent for so long and he's been so physically right for so long," Carroll said.

Lynch's 17 touchdowns in the regular season, including four TD catches, were

a career high. He caught 37 passes for a career-best 367 yards, becoming a more reliable receiving option out of the backfield. He's consistently been a capable blocker in pass protection.

"The thing that he brings to our offense is his versatility," quarterback Russell Wilson said. "People underestimate I think his ability to catch the football, his ability to block, his ability to run after contact. Just what he does in the backfield I mean I don't think there's another football player like him in terms of the running back position."

But that's only part of Lynch's story. Where his value is understated, and possibly most appreciated, is the ability to make something out of nothing.

To break tackles before he gets to the line of scrimmage and creates a 3-yard gain out of what should be a 3-yard loss. It's a skill others can try and emulate and never truly duplicate.

Sharapova, Nadal enter quarterfinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Maria Sharapova and Rafael Nadal put

earlier stumbles behind them to complete convincing wins Sunday and move into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

French Open champion Sharapova was broken once in the first set before winning the last eight games of her 6-3, 6-0 fourth-round victory over No. 21-seeded Peng Shuai, advancing her to a showdown with No. 7 Eugenie Bouchard, the most consistent player in women's majors last season.

Seventh-seeded Bouchard won nine of the first 10 games against Irina-Camelia Begu, but lost seven of the next nine to be pushed to a third set for the first time in the tournament.

After serving a double-fault on set point to end the second, Bouchard took a short break before returning to complete a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 win over No. 42-ranked Begu, who had taken out No. 9-seeded Angelique Kerber in the first round.

"I gave myself a good, long hard look in the mirror," Bouchard explained of her brief absence from Rod Laver Arena. "I said, 'Genie, this is unacceptable.' I really kind of kicked myself in the butt a little bit."

Nadal's 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 win over towering Kevin Anderson turned on two games at the end of the first set. Nadal fended off

five break points to hold serve, and then broke the 2.03-meter (6-foot-8) tall South African's serve in the next game to go on a roll in his fourth-round encounter. He will next face No. 7 Tomas Berdych, who had a 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-2 win over local hope Bernard Tomic.

Nadal, who won the Australian Open in 2009 and lost the finals in 2012 and last year, is coming off an extended injury layoff and says he's building momentum as he goes - thankful he got through a tough five-setter in the second round against U.S. qualifier Tim Smyczek.

Five-time Grand Slam winner Sharapova also has momentum, coming off a win in the season-opening tournament in Brisbane, but had a hiccup in the second round here when she had to save match points after Russian qualifier Alexandra Panova.

Sharapova lost in the fourth round at Melbourne Park last year, when Bouchard reached the semifinals in her tournament debut.

"I feel like something or someone gave me another chance," Sharapova said of her second-round reprieve. "Last year I lost in the fourth round here, getting to the quarters is really special."

Bouchard reached the semifinals or better at the first three Grand Slam tournaments last year, and lost in the fourth round at the U.S. Open. Sharapova lost in the fourth



AP
Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates a point won against Peng Shuai of China in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

Bouchard in the semifinals.

Sharapova said Bouchard was the most consistent player at the recent Grand Slams, and she had to be at her best to beat the 20-year-old Canadian.

"She's playing really well, confident tennis. So aggressive," Sharapova said. "I have a tough match ahead of me, but I always look forward to that."

After three straight-sets wins, Bouchard joked that she went three sets against Begu for a couple of reasons.

"Clearly I need more practice!" she said, then turned to the section of fans known as the Genie Army who support her in Australia. "It's not horrible playing longer on this court. I just wanted to do that for you guys, and for them to practice more songs."

In the other quarter of the draw, No. 10 Ekaterina Makarova had a 6-3, 6-2 win over Julia Goerges to reach the last eight, where she'll play the winner of a Sunday night match between No. 3 Simona Halep and Yanina Wickmayer.

Kobe to be re-examined before deciding injury fate



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant's torn right rotator cuff will be re-examined Monday before the Los Angeles Lakers decide whether the superstar guard needs potentially season-ending surgery.

Bryant was examined Friday in Los Angeles after the third-leading scorer in NBA history tore his rotator cuff Wednesday in New Orleans.

"We know it's a tear, but we don't know to what degree," coach Byron Scott said Friday in San Antonio. "Monday we'll find out if he's going to have surgery or not. That's disappointing in of itself. We know we're going to miss him for a length of time, we just don't know how long yet."

A completely torn rotator cuff typically requires surgery and several months of rehabilitation, which means Bryant's 19th NBA season could be over. Bryant's previous two seasons also ended early due to injuries.

A partial tear sometimes can be managed while an athlete continues to play, but the Lakers have declined to specify the severity of Bryant's tear.

Yet it's clear the 36-year-old Bryant has a major injury for the third straight season, his famously resilient body finally

wearing down from the accumulated grind of nearly two decades with the Lakers and numerous long postseason runs.

He tore his Achilles tendon in April 2013, and he played in just six games last season before breaking a bone near his left knee.

"He's one of the toughest guys I've ever been around as far as dealing with injuries and things like that, and being able to come back," Scott said after the Lakers' morning shootaround in San Antonio. "Everybody said he was done after the Achilles, and he came back pretty strong. Knowing him the way I know him, I know he doesn't want to go out this way. I think he will rehab it if that's the case, and then we'll wait and see."

Team physician Steve Lombardo confirmed the initial diagnosis and discussed treatment options with Bryant on Friday. Bryant will be examined again by Neal ElAttrache of the Kerlan Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic on Monday, and they'll decide whether Bryant should have surgery.

Bryant joked about the injury on his Twitter account Friday: "This is what happens when I pass too much!"

Bryant was injured while throwing down a two-handed dunk in the Lakers' loss to the Pelicans. He traveled home before the Lakers played at San

round of three majors in a season highlighted by winning the French Open, where she beat

Antonio on Friday night.

Bryant has sat out eight games in the last month to rest, so the struggling Lakers (12-31) have grown used to playing without their top scorer.

Bryant felt shoulder pain at the beginning of the season, but hadn't mentioned it lately. The Lakers believe Bryant's torn rotator cuff occurred on the dunk.

"I said, 'Are you all right?'" Scott recalled. "He was like, 'Yeah, I'm good, just bothering me a little bit. Once I get warmed up, I'm fine.' After that point, I never thought about it."

Although the Lakers rested Bryant extensively this season to preserve the wear on his high-mileage body, Scott still laments playing Bryant for too many minutes in early-season games. Bryant has been on a strict 32-minute limit over the past month.

The Lakers repeatedly have said they're determined to preserve Bryant's health into next season, when he is due to make \$25 million. Los Angeles has struggled on the court for two straight seasons, but Bryant remains one of the world's most popular athletes, with his presence essentially guaranteeing a sellout in arenas across North America.

Bryant is the NBA's highest-paid player at \$23.5 million this season.

SIDEBAR

Thompson's record 37 points lead Warriors vs Kings

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The sellout crowd chanted Klay Thompson's name. Both benches stood, equally stunned at what was taking place. Thompson's teammates continued to get him the ball - and he just kept shooting.

"They just kept wanting to see the show," Thompson said. "That's what they kept telling me."

Thompson set a league record for the most points in a quarter Friday night, a thrilling 37-point third period that powered the Golden State Warriors to a 126-101 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

"I was one of the luckiest NBA players ever to play with Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, David Robinson and some of the greatest players ever," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "As many spectacular things as Michael did, which he did nightly, I never saw him do that."

Grizzlies 101, 76ers 83
In Memphis, Zach Randolph had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Jeff Green scored 18 as the Memphis Grizzlies coasted to a 101-83 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Vince Carter added 13 points as the Grizzlies (31-12)

won their sixth in the last seven games.

Memphis led by as many as 25 in the second half, allowing coach Dave Joerges to rest his starters in the fourth quarter. Marc Gasol, selected as an All-Star starter, finished with nine points, as did point guard Mike Conley.

Rookie Jerami Grant led the Sixers (8-36) with a career-high 16 points, while Michael Carter-Williams was the only other Philadelphia player in double figures with 10 points.

Trail Blazers 103, Wizards 96

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge returned to the Trail Blazers two days after saying he was going to have thumb surgery and had 26 points and nine rebounds in a victory over the Washington Wizards.

Damian Lillard added 20 points and seven assists as the Blazers snapped a two-game losing streak.

Tied at 79 midway through the fourth quarter, Wesley Matthews made two 3-pointers that gave Portland an 87-85 with 3:28 left. Lillard's 3 extended the lead 92-85.

Bucks 101, Pistons 86

In Milwaukee, O.J. Mayo scored 20 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks relied on perim-

eter shooting and defense in the win.

The Bucks went 11 for 17 from 3-point range, including a 4-for-5 performance from Mayo. The reserve guard made three 3s in a 47-second span of the second quarter to spark an 18-2 run that gave Milwaukee a 54-40 lead with 4:27 left in the second quarter.

Hornets 76, Knicks 71

In Charlotte, Brian Roberts scored 17 points, and the Charlotte Hornets beat the New York Knicks for their ninth victory in the last 11 games.

Roberts, who started in place of the injured Kemba Walker, was 5 of 9 from the field and made all six free throws as the Hornets snapped the Knicks' three-game win streak.

The Knicks played without Carmelo Anthony, who was held out to rest his knee on the second night of a back-to-back.

Jazz 108, Nets 73

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 24 points and Trey Burke had 19 as the Utah Jazz rolled over the reeling Brooklyn Nets.

Joe Ingles had a season-high 16 points and Dante Exum had 13 in his second straight start in front of Burke, who came off the bench.

MT. CARMEL

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Ganjo Gamab combining for 15 markers.

Kim Young Kwang led SIS with 9 markers, while brothers Allen and Christopher Cepeda, and Jehn Joyner added 5 points each.

MCS improved to 4-2, while SIS dropped its fifth straight game since opening with a 48-23 crushing of Marianas Baptist Academy on Jan. 9.

In the first game, Aaron Ogumoro tallied 17 points while Christian Arceo chipped in 14 as Kagman High School 9 escaped with a 45-43 decision over Saipan Southern High School 9.

Kagman finally recorded a victory after three games, while keeping Saipan Southern winless also in three matches.

The loss wasted June Alipio's 20 points for Southern.

The Ayuyus had a double celebration after their junior varsity squad thrashed MHS 9, 59-30, behind Roke Tenorio's game-long brilliance.

Tenorio ended up with 17 points to lead Kagman JV to an even 2-2 record, while MHS 9 dropped to 1-2.

Darion Jones and Jeffrey Castro made 14 and 11 markers to provide scoring support to Tenorio.

Adrian De Luna was the lone MHS 9 player who finished in

double figures with, 13 while Matthew Mamaril came up with 9 points.

Action continues today with MHS JV facing KHS 9 in the 4pm first game and Southern battling MHS at 5:20pm in an all-JV match. Grace Christian Academy takes on MBA in the 6:30pm nightcap.

First Game

KHS 9 45—Ogumoro 17, Arceo 14, Agulto 6, Mendiola 6, Rabauliman 2.

SSHS 9 43—Alipio 20, Siech 8, Bondoc 5, Cobacha 5, Kapileo 5.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 25-18, 33-29, 45-43.

Second Game

KHS JV 59—Tenorio 17, Jones 14, Castro 11, Torres 7, Palino 4, Salik 4, Aguon 2.

MHS 9 30—De Luna 13, Mamaril 9, Manglona 3, Mendoza 3, Prado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 40-19, 51-21, 59-30.

Third Game

MCS 56—Camacho 15, Evangelista 10, Hahn 8, Gamab 7, Son 6, Amog 3, Deleon Guerrero 3, Kim 2, Santos 2.

SIS 38—Y.K. Kim, 9, A. Cepeda 5, C. Cepeda 5, Joyner 5, Johnson 4, H.H. Kim 4, Smith 4, Yoon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-5, 32-10, 49-22, 56-38.

drew 21 runners, Keith Longuski is slowly carving his name in the island's running events after ruling the male division with his 48:06. Jennifer Cui equaled his feat in the female division after logging 1:06:11.

Cooper Schraudenbach (57:03) and Terra Allen (1:07:25) were the second best male and female 10K runners, while Jack Kabiriel (57:57) and Sakiko Eda (1:08:20) finished third.

Ken Song (male U18, 1:04:31); Derek Leung (male 19-29, 1:00:22); Joseph Villacrusis (male 30-39, 1:12:37); Goshi Sato (male 40-49, 1:01:14); Steven Pixley (male 50-up, 1:06:46); Kaitlin Mattos (female 19-29, 1:13:35); Neda Farzan (female 30-39, 1:13:08); Wantha Aldrich (female 40-49, 1:23:55); and Margaret Rose (female 50-up, 1:15:13) were the top age group finishers.

In related news, Marianas Coffee Co. owner Chuck Jordan said that with the Marianas Visitors Authority's help and various sponsors they plan to have a bigger event in 2016.

MCC, MVA, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, and Team PDI were the main sponsors of the race, while Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan World Resort, Yano Enterprises Inc., Kinpachi Restaurant, Avis Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan donated the raffle prizes.

Organizers also thanked the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Parks and Recreation for their assistance.

Mayweather-Pacquiao contracts not crafted yet



By the standards of Manny Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, a long-awaited super-fight between Pacquiao and unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr. is but a signature away.

"We're all done," Arum told Fight Hub TV and others while in Colorado this week. "We've signed everything, agreed on all the terms. As far as we know, we've been told by the highest authority that Mayweather's people have agreed, that the networks have agreed.

"But like they say, you can't do a play about Hamlet without Hamlet, and Hamlet—meaning Mayweather—has not signed on."

Not so fast, and not at all

accurate, counters Showtime Executive Vice President Stephen Espinoza, who is negotiating alongside his superiors and HBO executives to craft a joint-broadcasting deal for what's expected to be the most lucrative pay-per-view bout in history.

Showtime has two fights remaining in its agreement with Mayweather. Pacquiao fights for HBO.

"Arum has been saying a lot of inaccuracies," Espinoza told the Los Angeles Times in a telephone interview Saturday.

"Here's where we are: There is no contract awaiting Floyd's signature, and Bob Arum knows that. Floyd has represented to [CBS/Showtime Chairman] Leslie Moonves, to [his manager] Al Haymon and

to me personally that he wants to make the fight, and we are making very good progress. But there are no contracts. There are open issues between Showtime and HBO that are being resolved.

"No one is waiting on Floyd, and for Bob Arum to say otherwise is a misrepresentation of the facts.

"Discussions are ongoing. We've made significant progress. And Floyd has given us clear directions to make the fight."

In a conversation with The Times earlier this week, Arum said that while attorneys are ready to draft contracts, it would likely take into this coming week before anything can be presented to the fighters to sign.

With issues like splitting prof-

its, the fight replay, handling on-air talent and other details as part of the challenge of handling a joint broadcast arrangement between rival premium networks that hasn't been done since 2002 (Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson), Espinoza declined to reveal what deal points remain unfinished.

Pacquiao told The Times earlier this week that he wants an agreement struck by the end of January. On Friday, he visited in London with England's Amir Khan to discuss what is clearly a backup option.

If the deal is close by Jan. 31, it's believed Pacquiao will wait.

The fighters have already agreed on the purse split, a drug-testing plan, a May 2 date and the MGM Grand in Las Vegas as the venue.

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the other Final Four pairing tomorrow at the same time at the Hunter Stadium in Newcastle.

"I am confident we can pull this one against Iraq and move closer to ending our Asian Cup title drought for 59 years," said Kriss Kim, who has been residing on Saipan for about 10 years and plays for Sun Palace in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's M-League.

"South Korea's defense will be the key in stopping Iraq," Kim added.

Entering their semis game against Iraq, the Taeguk Warriors have never conceded a single goal in the four wins they recorded.

Kim added that South Korea boosted its chance for the first

Asian Cup crown in nearly six decades after title favorite and defending champion Japan lost in the quarterfinals. The Blue Samurai were stunned by UAE in the quarterfinals, losing in the shootout, 5-4. The Japan-UAE game ended at 1-1 at the regulation.

Kim will be watching the South Korea-Iraq game with his Sun Palace teammates, including Eugene Hong, who is also positive about the Taeguk Warriors' chances in this year's Asian Cup.

"When Japan lost, I felt it will be easier for us to get to the finals and hopefully win the Cup," said Hong, who loves hosting friends in his San Antonio home.

"It's always nice to watch games with your friends, especially when you're cheering for one team. Even though we're

away from home, we can still feel that pride when we root for our team, especially when they are winning," Hong said.

The Sun Palace team captain expect the South Korea-Iraq game to be physical and hopes midfielder Son Heung-Min and captain Ki Sung Yueng will continue to step up in place of two key players who will miss the remaining games due to injuries.

"Iraq is a tough team and I bet they will go all out there in the semifinals, so South Korea, even though they are favored, have to be very careful," Hong said.

Iraq so far has recorded the most yellow cards with 12, but has the second best shooting percentage (54.29) behind South Korea (55 percent). It faced South Korea twice (1972 and 2007) before tonight's match with both games ending

in scoreless draws.

If they are given a chance to pick South Korea's finals foe once the Taeguk Warriors make it to the championship, both Hong and Kim wish for UAE.

"Australia has some of players who are in Euro leagues, while UAE players are playing in local leagues, so the hosts have the slight advantage. Plus, they have the home crowd," Hong said.

"We're kind of hoping that Japan would win against UAE so that when Japan and Australia face in the semifinals they will be both tired because that would have been a very difficult game and in the finals South Korea will be a bit fresher and will have the advantage. However, Japan lost, so it's a different scenario now, but still we like our team's chances this year," Kim said.

SEDA

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Light Cup.

Destroyers captain Gerry Galsote Sadiri Martin, Romy Intendez, Gigi Gatmaitan, Burth Dacumos, Pam Ybanez, Anie Legaspi, and Sonny Ebu were almost unbeatable in the four-tem Masters division after collecting 165 wins out of the 255 games they played in the regular season.

The Kevin Ada-led Ridin' Darryt duplicated the feat in the A class with the help of teammates Blaren Castro, Carter Calma, Daryl Brennan, June Nunez, James Benavente and Don Brennan.

The Spartans, who became crowd favorites during the awards ceremony with the sig-

SSC

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the U8, 9 to 10, and 11 to 12 age groups had only five heats and the 13 to 14, 15 to 16 and over 18 divisions featured two. The 200m medley relay had only one heat with all three teams composed of SSC swimmers. Jin Ju Thompson teamed

nature AHOO! cheer popularized in the movie 300, were the third squad to rule both the regular season and Bud Light Cup.

Harlan Reyes is the Spartans' team captain with Stanely Aldan, Dan Repeki, Toto Vergara, Joe Acosta, Jun Santos, Melvin Aldan and Steven Igisaiar as members.

The Sand Juvy Vicious Darties (Ladies), Jokers Latte Darts (Kingfisher), Naked Fish Na'Gupu (Flame Tree), Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks (Fanihi), and Jokers X-ecutioners (Tuesday) were the other regular season champions.

Placing second in the regular season were Jokers Kitty Kats (Ladies), Route33 Chagi Fan!!! (Kingfisher), Barcode Breakers (Chichirika), Naked Fish Ridin' Darryt (Flame Tree), Sand

up with Conatsu Kaga and Frink, while Taiga Sato joined forces with Takahashi, Pierce, and Lennosuke Suzuki in the boys division. The other boys team had Lennosuke Suzuki, Miyawaki, Taiyo Akimaru, and Kadokura.

Overall, swimmers raced in 12 events and official results will be reported later this week.

Juvy Put3ska (Fanihi), Smoke Pub Marupok (Tuesday), Sand Juvy Predator (A), and Sand Juvy Shoot Balut (Masters).

Third place finishers were Naked Fish Dartin' Divas (Ladies), Route33 Dart Knights (Kingfisher), Smoke Pub Snipers (Chichirika), Naked fish Oneshot (Flame Tree), Route33 Mixblood Shooters (Fanihi), Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks (Tuesday), Sand Juvy Outlawz (A), and Jokers TRA-Bull Makerz (Masters). The Jokers Disciples (Chichirika), Route33 Mixblood Shooters (Tuesday), and Sand Juvy 1010 Prooferz (A) came in at fourth.

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Kagman 93—Lampkin 31, Yu 17, Je. Santos 15, Jo. Santos 12, Palino 7, Prado 5, Yu 4, Paran 3.

Scoring by halves: 32-26, 68-68, 79-79 (1OT), 96-93 (2OT).

FRIDAY First Game

Sun Palace 68—Omengkar 17, Pangelinan 12, Venezuela 11, Mamaril 8, Edralin 7, Benavente 6.

The Jokers Kitty Kats (Ladies), Route33 Dart Knights (Kingfisher), Jokers Warriors (Flame Tree), Sand Juvy Put3ska (Fanihi) and Oleai Team Fearless (Tuesday) pulled off upsets in their respective divisions to claim the Bud Light Cup crown.

The sportsmanship awardees were Smoke Pub Ladies Bull-It (Ladies), Jokers BSEA Sunsports (Kingfisher), Blue Koi's (C), Smoke Pub Team Figan (Flame Tre), Jokers Chagi Fan (Fanihi), Oleai Team Fearless (Tuesday), Route33 Mafia (A), and Sand Juvy Shoot Balut (Masters).

Rollers 3 53—Tengco 12, Dela Cruz 9, Ogumoro 9, Arceo 9, Alonzo 4, Cruz 3, Kisa 2, Factor 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-30, 68-53.

Second Game

Dream Team 65—Darag 15, S. Deleon Guerrero 14, I. Borja 12, Kwon 8, Francisco 5, F. Deleon Guerrero 2, Castro 2, E. Borja 2, Sanchez 2.

Rollers 1 64—Mendoza 16, Arciaga 14, Fidelino 8, Factor 6, De Leon 4, Espinosa 4, Vivero 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-24, 56-56, 65-64 (1OT).

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The 33-year-old completed the long course that included the coffee plantations in Navy Hill in 1:48:04, which was 20 seconds faster than his last year's winning time of 1:48:24.

Lorie Hutchison, meanwhile, was crowned the new queen of the annual race and in the process shave more than two minutes of Mamiko Oshima-Berger's 2014 time (2:13:33) by clocking 2:11:11. She also broke her time (2:20:00) last year where she finished second behind Oshima-Berger, who skipped this year's edition of the race.

Veteran runner Ronald Villafria, who ran his first race after an almost two-year absence, came in second in the men's division with a time of 2:04:00, while Northern Mariana Athletics product Seiya Eda was third (2:07:22).

Kimiko McKagan recorded the second best time in the women's side at 2:16:23, while Maki Narita finished third with 2:22:20. Their times were better than the 2:24:28 recorded by last year's third placer Pipit Ball.

Steven Johnson (male 19-29, 2:07:23); Oliver Santiago (male 30-39, 2:34:18); Tyce Mister (male 40-49, 2:09:07); Paul Sungmo Khang (male 50-up, 2:35:46); and Yumiko Mizuno (female 30-39, 2:53:16) were the age group finishers in the 20K course.

Meanwhile, in the short 10-kilometer course, which

Open race for last two semifinals berths

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Tomorrow's last elimination round games in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic will decide the fates of four teams as the battle for the two remaining semis berths became more interesting following Rollers 2's win last Thursday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 2 survived Kagman Risers in double overtime, 96-93, to force a three-way tie for fourth place with its victim and Ol'Aces, who earlier in the first game fell to Dream Team, 47-70.

Rollers 2, Kagman, and the Ol'Aces hold identical 3-3 records, just slightly behind the third-running 670 Sonics (4-2). The Sonics and Rollers 2 will collide tomorrow at 5:30pm in the last day of the elimination and the former's win will boot out the latter. A Sonics loss will create a triple tie for the last two semis seats among the opposing teams in the first match and the winner between the Ol'Aces-Kagman tiff in the second game at 7pm.

Dream Team and Rollers 1, which ended the elimination with similar 6-1 slates, had

already secured the first two semis berths. Dream Team won the tiebreak as it nosed out Rollers 1 in overtime, 65-64.

Shane Deleon Guerrero hit the dagger for Dream Team, as his buzzer-beating jumper near the free throw line foiled Rollers 1's bid for an elimination round sweep, giving his team the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs.

Earlier in last Thursday's important match between Rollers 2 and Kagman, the former leaned on Jethro Cruz's hot hands to eke out the double-overtime victory.

Cruz sizzled for 34 points, including 9 in the first overtime that helped Rollers

2 force another standoff. In the second overtime, Cruz added 9 more, drilling 7 of them in consecutive fashion to finally lift Rollers 2 to the win. Warren Ellama also delivered in the second extension, scoring Rollers 2's first 4 points, while Jun Alipio hit clutch free throws to keep the team's playoff hopes alive.

Jason Lampkin led Kagman's sorry loss with his 31 points.

In the other boys U19 match last Friday, Sun Palace bowed



out of competition with a 68-53 thumping of Rollers 3.

Sun Palace Hotel managed to get a win in seven games in the elimination round, while Rollers 3 concluded its campaign without a single victory.

Sun Palace played better in the second half to battle back from a 25-30 deficit at halftime. The trio of Kautong Omengkar, Toshi Pangelinan, and Roy Venezuela made things happen for Sun Palace Hotel as all three finished in twin digits. Omengkar had a game-high 17 points, while Pangelinan and Venezuela chipped in 12 and 11, respectively.

Jude Tengco paced the winless Rollers 3 with his 12 markers.

THURSDAY

Rollers 2 96—Cruz 34, Rios 13, Ellama 12, Dancoe 11, Deocares 8, Alipio 6, Cudia 5, Santos 4, Abobo 1.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 2's Warren Ellama drives from the corner against the defense of the Ol'Aces Tristan Montes during an earlier game in the boys U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SEDA honors island's top darters

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association honored the island's top dart players during its annual season-ending

awards banquet yesterday at Pacific Islands Club-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

The Jokers Destroyers (Masters), Naked Fish Ridin' Darry (A), and Jokers



Spartans (C) led the list of winners after becoming two-time champions by topping the regular season and Bud

See SEDA on Page 26



JON PEREZ

The Jokers Destroyers, top photo, and the Naked Fish Ridin' Darry celebrate their respective victories in the regular season and Bud Light Cup of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association yesterday during the league's banquet at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

More than 40 swimmers join SSC pentathlon meet

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Over 40 swimmers from host Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan participated in last Saturday's SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Twenty SSC swimmers joined the pentathlon. The list included siblings Jinie and Jin Ju Thompson, Lennozuke and Jin Jinnosuke Suzuki, Ayaka and Dino Sato, Kento and Taiyo Akimaru, and Conatsu and Coume Kaga, R.J. Pierce, Davean Gonzales, Rintaro Miyawaki, David Boyer, Christina Villacrusis, Cory Lee, Taiga Sato, Jasmin Frink, Akira Kad-

okura and Rinto Takahashi.

Tsunami Saipan fielded 23 swimmers led by Angel De Jesus. Completing the list were Aasish and Ashley Dangol, Daime and Kyona Rivera, Aika and Nanaka Watanabe, Rentaro and Kana Suzuki, Shaunalyn Babauta, Ayumi Obligation, Jhota Yoshio, Hans Xu, Natsuki Nagata, Isaiah Aleksenko, Sophia Gauran, Juhn Tenorio, Miku Tammy, Nelson Battalones, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Kathrine Illahi, Tomie Kenta, Mark Maestro, and Kaito Yanai.

The event kicked off with the 50 butterfly race for boys

and girls U8, 9 to 10, and 11 to 12 age groups. There were six heats in these age groups, while swimmers in the 13 to 14, 15 to 16, and over 18 divisions did a longer race—the 100m butterfly.

Next up for the pentathlon participants was the 50m backstroke, which also had six heats for the first three age groups, while the last three divisions did the 100m backstroke event. The same process were implemented in the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle and the 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle, while the 200m individual medley for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's David Boyer races in the 100m butterfly event during last Saturday's SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Patriots coach dares NFL to prove him wrong
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Open race for last two semis berths
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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sendin repeats, Hutchison wins



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Charlie Sendin successfully defended his men's title, while a new queen reigned in the women's side of Saturday's 8th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run.



Sendin, who failed to attend the afternoon awards banquet due to his work schedule, was the fastest among the 47 runners. They braved the early morning rains and treacherous 20-kilometer course that started and ended at the American Memorial Park in Garapan and brought participants around the trail of Mt. Tapochao.

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S. Koreans on Saipan positive on Taeguk Warriors' chances

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

South Koreans residing on Saipan are optimistic about the Taeguk Warriors' chances in the 2015 Asian Cup.

The South Koreans are now in the semis, following their 2-0 victory over Uzbekistan in

the quarterfinals last Thursday at the Melbourne Rectangular Stadium in Melbourne. In the semis, the Taeguk Warriors will play the dangerous Iraq side, which advanced to the Final Four after thwarting rival Iran in penalty shootout,

7-6. The South Korea-Iraq semis tiff is set for 8pm tonight (Australian time) at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney, while host Australia and the United Arab Emirates will collide in



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South Korea's Lee Keun-ho, left, and Uzbekistan's Anzur Ismailov battle for the ball during their AFC Asia Cup quarterfinal soccer match in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015.

Mt. Carmel Knights crush SIS Geckos

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School made it two in a row against Saipan International School with the Knights crushing the Geckos, 56-38, in last Friday's main game in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

It was also the Knights' sec-

ond straight win after absorbing a 57-27 trouncing from defending champions MHS Dolphins in last week's Jamboree. Mt. Carmel defeated SIS, 44-39, on Jan. 17, while its two other victories were recorded against Marianas Baptist Academy and Grace Christian Academy.

The Knights, who led by nine after the opening quarter, stepped on the gas further in the second period to break the game wide open and cruise to victory.

Alfonso Evangelista scored 7 of the Knights' 18 points in the second canto to help his team enter the halftime break enjoying a huge 32-10 spread. Mt. Carmel was never threatened after that and even posted a 27-point lead, 49-22, entering the final period.

William Camacho scattered 15 points to pace the Knights, while Evangelista finished with 10 with Jonah Hahn and

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Mt. Carmel School's Markel Toves, center, challenges the double-team defense of Marianas Baptist Academy's Christian, left, and Jeremiah Kim in an earlier game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association High School Boys Basketball League. The Mt. Carmel Knights improved to 4-2 after beating the Saipan International School Geckos last Friday.